









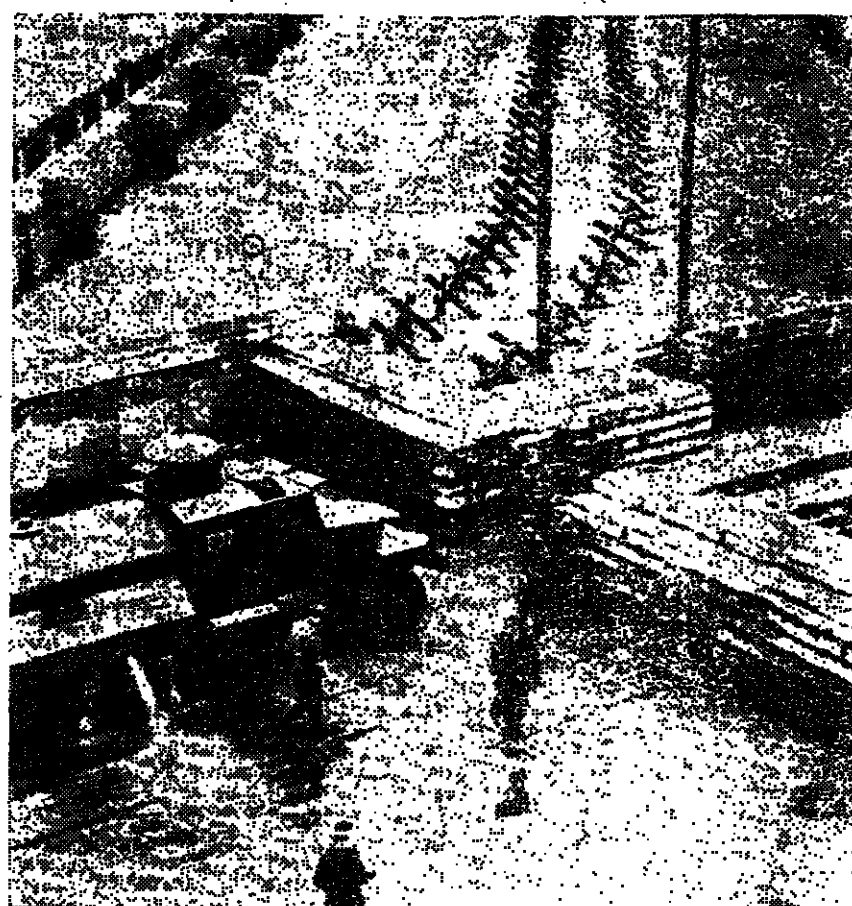
# Volunteers are needed for three years National Service.



**You may have to face angry crowds in Northern Ireland.**



**You may have to help keep the peace in Cyprus.**



**You may have to guard the border in Germany.**

There are still people who regret the end of compulsory National Service.

In their opinion, it was the solution to everything from vandalism to the divorce rate. It taught boys to be men and it gave the Army a cheap work force.

In our opinion, it gave the Army a bad name.

It's true that we got some good men. But we also got a lot of boys who begrudged lifting a finger and lived only for demob.

Who could blame them? They didn't volunteer. They were forced labour.

We were glad to see the end of that kind of National Service, and even more pleased to start building an army of professionals.

Now we have what is considered to be one of the most efficient fighting units in the world.

We don't need conscripts because we have enough people who think the job is worth doing.

Our hope is that the day will come when every young man at the end of his education will at least ask himself whether *he* thinks the job is worth doing.

And whether he's prepared to spend three years as an Army Officer helping to do it.

So it might help if we tell you exactly what the job is.

## **Defending a man's right to be a communist.**

We may as well start right at the top, however high-falutin it sounds; your job will be to defend democracy.

Because, make no mistake, it is threatened.

There are nations and there are terrorist organisations who have pledged themselves to its destruction.

We can't go into the whys and wherefores of their beliefs now, but already over half the peoples of the world live under one form of dictatorship or another.

These people do not have the rights you take for granted.

The right to vote, the right to worship as you choose, to speak your mind, to strike if you feel you're being exploited.

In short, the right to live your life as you want subject only to the wishes of the majority and the laws of the land.

This is what you might be asked to fight for; to defend even your neighbour's right to be a pacifist or a communist.

And, don't forget, because we're a member of NATO you could be asked to defend a German's rights or a Belgian's homeland.

So what do you think?

Is the job worth doing?

Next question:

## **Can you take boredom?**

We hope you'll answer that boredom is something you hate. And we swear that in the Army we'll do everything we can to allay it.

But the fact is that when major powers are balanced, often all that is needed is a quiet presence.

It would be quite wrong of us to pretend that patrolling the East/West German border is a scintillating experience.

Or that being holed up in a converted school in Ulster is remotely comfortable.

Or that our Army Officers in the UN force who had to take care of thousands of Cypriot refugees recently found their blood tingling with excitement.

Are we putting you off?

If we are laying it on a bit thick it's only because we want you to volunteer out of a mature realisation of what the Army can be like, not out of schoolboy fantasies.

Even so, there is a lot to get out of three years National Service.

Perhaps you saw the statement signed last year by leading industrialists about the short service commission?

It said that for them, three years as an Army Officer can equal three years at university.

In their letters the words 'leadership', 'man-management', 'a sense of discipline' cropped up time and again.

Why? What will happen to you to reveal these sterling qualities?

It really boils down to having the awesome responsibility for the lives of thirty men.

It will be your job to train them, care for them and build a trusting relationship with them. So that in a terrifyingly dangerous situation when you give them orders, they will obey you.

It might give you a few sleepless nights but you'll grow into the responsibility until, gradually, leadership will come naturally.


At the same time you'll be making lifelong friends. You'll probably go on exercises abroad. You'll be fit, alert and active.

In addition, you won't be badly off.

As a Second Lieutenant you'll start at £2,675 rising to £3,325 as a Lieutenant. You'll also get a tax-free bonus of £1,395 when you leave.

The first step is to spend three days at the Army Officer Selection Board where you'll confront tasks and stress-situations designed to let you show your worth.

Major C. N. B. Wellwood, Dept. A32, Army Officer Entry, Lansdowne House, Berkeley Square, London W1X 6AA, will send you the details, if you send him yours.

 **Army Officer**



HOME NEWS

# Private companies to be taken over in new water resources plan

By Christopher Warman  
Local Government  
Correspondent

The Government issued proposals yesterday for a strong national water authority as part of an important plan to make the best use of essential water resources.

A consultative document, reviewing the water industry which has operated in its organized state for two years, also seeks to integrate the 28 private water companies into the regional water authorities.

It suggests an equalization scheme for water charges to end the situation in which many people pay much more for their water supply than others.

A review of the water industry in England and Wales was promised in 1974 as a result of consistent opposition to the reorganization devised and implemented by the Conservative Government.

Mr Howell, Minister of State, Department of the Environment, introduced the document with criticism of the present organization. "While the 'Forbes' organization, which the Tories did want to create 10 national industries at regional level; that was nonsense. They do not know how to nationalize things."

The introduction to the document states that the reorganization did little to ensure that the combined policies and operations of the 10 regional authorities provided the most effective or economical answer to national needs, nor did it provide an adequate framework for the necessary national planning.

"Given that the water industry is one of Britain's largest, running at about £500m and income (for 1975-76) at £900m, the lack of adequate central guidance and monitoring to ensure that it operates in the national interest must be regarded as a major deficiency."

The proposed new National Water Authority, replacing the present National Water Council, would be responsible for preparing a national strategy for water services in England and Wales, and would lay down the scope of long-term plans of the regional water authorities. In addition it would take over research, and advise the Government on the redeployment of water resources across regional boundaries.

"We need to double our water resources by the end of the century, and that needs great capital investment on resources and on new plant for recycling," Mr Howell said. "Vast sums of capital expenditure will be required."

conceivable to organize that except by a unified authority." The Government intends to integrate the 28 private water companies with the regional authorities "as soon as practicable". Under the present system, the companies were agents of the regional authorities. There was no sense in continuing their present existence because they would not be able to double their resources, as would be necessary, Mr Howell said.

He emphasized that the main priority was to strengthen the central authority. Changes to the regional authorities, if necessary, would have to wait until the Government's detailed proposals on devolution were known. The regions and local authorities were bound to be affected, and it would be "silly" to reorganize them before the consequences of devolution became clear.

Recognizing that there are variations in charges for water services, the document proposes an interim equalization scheme.

The variations are caused largely by the historic debts taken over by the new regional authorities, and in the scheme the cost of each authority faces in financing the debt would be pooled and shared out. It would apply only to unmeasured (mainly domestic) water supply, where action is most necessary.

Household bills vary at present from 44 per cent above the national average to 17 per cent below. If the scheme had been operating this year (1975-76), the Government estimates that the variation would have been reduced to between 16 per cent above and 14 per cent below.

In practical terms, for the present year, the scheme would have saved £4 on a household annual bill for Wales, £3.50 in the south-west, and £1.50 in East Anglia, while the bill in the south-east where householders pay less than the national average, would have been increased by an average of £2.

Discussions on the proposals will continue until July 31, and it is hoped to have a Bill, including the equalization scheme, in the autumn.

The National Water Council yesterday welcomed the equalization scheme. Lord Nugent of Guildford, chairman, said that the new powers of the National Water Authority would have to be closely examined "to ensure that they do not significantly impede the necessary freedom of local decision and action of water authorities."



Hans Hotter, the baritone, who returned to London from Germany to hold four lieder master classes, is seen rehearsing Fiona Dobie for a concert on Sunday.

## Seamen's pay claim may threaten £6 policy

By Paul Routledge  
Labour Editor

A new threat to the stability of the TUC-Government pay restraint policy emerged yesterday when union leaders of 38,000 Merchant Navy seamen asked for substantial wage rises and improved overtime pay.

The General Council of Shipping undertook to reply to the claim in due course, but told the National Union of Seamen that any increase would have to comply with the next phase of the pay policy, and must also reflect the depressed state of industry.

Apart from an unspecified "substantial" increase in basic rates, the union wants overtime pay to be lifted to time and a half during the week and double at weekends. At present it is time and a quarter.

On July 2, seamen reach the end of a three-stage agreement that will lift earnings by about 54 per cent above the 1974 level to an average of £77.68 for foreign-going able seamen whose working week is 66 hours.

## Hayley Mills named

Hayley Mills, aged 29, the actress and estranged wife of Roy Boulting, the film producer, is named in a divorce petition by Mrs Raymond Lawson, aged 27, wife of Leigh Lawson, the actor.

## Community law centre refused permission to advertise services

By Diana Geddes

The Law Society has refused to grant to the Hillingdon Community Law Centre in London a waiver from its rules against advertising and touting. Without such a waiver the law centre cannot effectively reach those needing its services or offer free or cut-rate assistance.

This is the first time the society has completely refused an application for a waiver from an independent law centre. The local law society considers that the present services are adequate for the area.

The law centre is supported by 11 local organizations, including the Borough of Hillingdon, which is the largest of the London boroughs, with a population of 235,000. In 1971 there were 4,709 people to each solicitor's office in the borough which placed it in the top half of urban areas in the provision of solicitors' offices, but not in the top 40 per cent.

It is not one of the most deprived areas of the country either in housing conditions or unemployment. But the law centre believes a law centre is needed for emergency matrimonial cases, care proceedings for children, employment, consumer matters, supplementary benefits and landlord-tenant disputes.

The Citizens Advice Bureau in Hayes and Uxbridge say that the law centre is needed to provide legal advice and assistance on all matters. Miss Dolina Horrocks, organizer of the Hillingdon bureau, said at a press conference yesterday that they had established that local private solicitors were extremely busy.

The centre therefore not likely to be taking bread or cake out of private solicitors' mouths," she said.

Mr Registrar Birks, chairman of the Uxbridge County Court, says he has no doubt from his experience among the poorer sections of the community who come before him, that there was a clear need for a service which could tell such people what to do and how to handle their cases, but the need was not being met.

Mr Peter Kandler, director of the North Kensington Law Centre and chairman of the Law Centre Working Group representing 20 centres, said yesterday that the Law Society's decision could have very serious consequences for the future of all independent law centres.

Those already granted waivers could have them revoked at any time, and those which had been granted could be prevented from opening by being refused waivers, or by having impossible conditions attached to their being granted. Two other law centres at Tottenham and West Hampstead, were still awaiting decisions on their applications made last autumn.

Solicitors Hillingdon seemed to think they would lose

## EEC ban on fresh poultry attacked

By Our Agricultural Correspondent

Two attacks were made yesterday on EEC changes to poultry marketing which the British Government intends to adopt.

Mr Francis Pym, opposition spokesman on agriculture, said they were unnecessary and would limit shoppers' choice. Mr Peter Goldman, director of the Consumers' Association, said British people did not want "the bureaucrats of Brussels poking their fingers into our chicken guts."

He added: "There is a need for improved standards of hygiene, but there is no cause for stopping sales of fresh poultry."

EEC hygiene rules demand immediate gutting and inspection of the internal organs of poultry at slaughter. A quarter of birds sold in Britain are plucked, then hung and gutted in shops, often at the moment of sale.

The association said yesterday that it had conducted a survey which showed that levels of salmonella, the bacterium responsible for most food poisoning outbreaks, were lower in fresh, unviscerated poultry than in frozen and gutted birds.

Mr Pym, writing to Mr Peter, Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, said: "As far as I can see, the middle and small-sized producer will effectively be put out of business."

## Ventilation cuts pollution at raised motorway

From Arthur Osman  
Birmingham

Atmospheric lead concentrations near the Gravelly Hill motorway interchange ("Spaghetti Junction") in Birmingham, used by a million vehicles a week, was not significantly different from other parts of the city, a conference of the Royal Society of Health was told in Birmingham yesterday.

Mr A. Archer, the city's assistant environmental health officer, said: "This finding has been attributed to the beneficial effect of an elevated motorway which is subject to excellent ventilation to dispose of the pollutants."

The conference heard of sampling units set up in the city and of a blood lead level survey in progress. Its results were reassuring. Preliminary analysis of results from adults showed they had relatively modest blood lead levels by occupational standards.

A report continued: "However, this is no reason for complacency, since the levels in preschool children remain unknown and it is this group which is most at risk. Blood lead levels tend to peak between the ages of one and three years and it is in this age group that most cases of lead poisoning occur. A survey of pre-school children is clearly essential and is being planned."

## As feelings grow on issue of teaching Christianity in schools debate moves to Parliament

## MP to call for better religious education

By Tim Devlin  
Education Correspondent

A call for religious education to be improved in schools is to be made today by Mr Michael Alison, Conservative MP for Barkston Ash, when he introduces a private member's motion in the House of Commons.

Mr Alison, a Church of England lay reader told me yesterday that many schools were "sloppy" or "skipping" in their provision of religious education. There was a shortage of skilled teachers in the subject and the general uncertainty over the future of religious education was deterring new specialist teachers from coming forward.

The debate over religious education has become polarized in recent weeks. There has been scarcely a religious group that has not made its views known in a flurry of tracts, pamphlets and press statements. It began last year after Birmingham education authority was prevented from introducing a new syllabus, which would have included lessons in humanism and communism as part of religious education. The Department of Education and Science ruled that that was against the provisions of the Education Act, 1944.

Last October the British Humanist Association drafted a Bill to change the Act. The association wanted to stop compulsory religious education being compulsory in schools and to make sure that any religious education syllabus contained a "substantial education in the foundations of a non-religious point of view."

Mr Geoffrey Edge, Labour MP for Aldridge-Brownhills, intends to introduce the bill this session but has not yet found an opportunity.

In January the Festival of Light, backed by the Order of Religious Unity, launched a campaign "to save religious education". It called on all committed Christians to fight for religious education to be maintained in schools and gave a warning that now was the last chance to save it.

That provoked a strong rejoinder from the National Secular Society, which in February called for the 1944 Education Act provisions to be repealed. More moderate views have come since from the British Council of Churches. It would like to end parts of the Education Act which make religious education compulsory, in order to improve it. They want religious education to stand or fall on its merits.

Earlier this month the Association of Christian Teachers published a statement in favour of compulsory religious studies in schools. Christianity should be the main area of study but there should be an examination of other significant world-views.

On Wednesday the Joint Education Policy Committee, representing the Church of England, the Roman Catholic Church and the Free Church Federal Council, issued a statement reaffirming its support for Christian education and worship in county schools as a means of fostering the spiritual development of the community which, it says, should continue to be the duty of the local education authority.

Mr William van Straubenzee, Conservative MP for Wokingham, and a former junior minister at the Department of Education and Science, said the significance of today's debate was that for the first time a hardening of attitudes had been taken by an active and committed Christian rather than by an MP who was hostile to religious education.

He said: "It is indicative of a hardening of attitudes against the abolition of religious instruction on the part of many shades of Christian opinion."

## Scientists call for curbs on food flavours

By Hugh Clayton

British food companies should be made to adopt new restrictions on the use of flavourings, a committee of scientists appointed by ministers said yesterday. The Food Additives and Contaminants Committee said in a report published nine and a half years after evidence was first sought from industry that information was very sparse.

It told Mr Peart, Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, and Mrs Castle, Secretary of State for Social Services: "Toxicological and other data in respect of this important class of food additives are still disappointingly small."

The committee said that without access to recent work by the Council of Europe it would have taken even longer to produce a report. It advised ministers to accept a provisional list of permitted flavourings and to propose it as a pattern for harmonization throughout the EEC.

The Food Manufacturers' Federation said the proposed list was too short.

All herbs and spices should be put into the permitted list because little is known about the biological properties of some of the more exotic types, the committee continued.

## Member of royal commission disa with interest relief on loans to pay

By a Staff Reporter

A member of the Royal Commission on the Press, Mr I. F. Richardson, city editor of the Birmingham Post, has disagreed with his colleagues that public money, in the form of interest relief on loans, should be used to help national newspapers to overcome their endemic financial difficulties.

In an interim report published on Wednesday the commission had recommended an immediate infusion of up to £55m to help the national newspaper industry to modernize their printing methods and to pay proper compensation to those production workers who would lose their jobs.

All the members of the commission, including Mr Richardson, agreed that any financial assistance should be drawn as far as possible from the private sector, and in particular from Finance For Industry (FFI), which was formed in 1973 by the English and Scottish clearing banks and the Bank of England to provide medium-term loans to industry.

However, they accepted that some newspapers would not be able to meet FFI's borrowing requirements and recommended that in such cases the Government should grant loans under the industry Act, 1972.

Mr Richardson dissents from a further proposal, that the Government should grant relief on the interest paid on all loans, whether private or public, taken out by newspapers to modernize their printing plant and to pay for the inevitable redundancies. The commission had recommended that that relief should be not more than 4 per cent and be available for only the first two years of any loan.

In a note of reservation Mr Richardson suggests that the £4m of public money which he calculates will be made available through interest relief would be an unnecessary incentive, given without it publishers expect a handsome return on any investment they make in new plant and equipment.

He adds: "And this is quite apart from the doubtful morality of rewarding an industry from public funds for doing something which had it cost its own true interests and the public's, it would have done voluntarily years before."

Instead Mr Richardson proposes that a financial early stages should be set up by the Government, interest and from the bottom would rest on the charges would be met by Mr Richardson's scheme. A considerable interest pay years on any probably be per cent, a instead when the came to pay interest, the have been a large saving accruing from the scheme. It is a be worth wide interest in it is running a revenues by

## Move defeat oil po at sea

By Michael H

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The report lining Unite nations for p bating oil p be considerg the Inter-G time Coun (Ames) sym tion of an from Ships this month

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## British Rail ready to sell 200,000 acres of land

From Our Correspondent  
Glasgow

The British Rail Property Board has no intention of holding on to the 200,000 acres of estate it controls, Mr Robert Lawrence, its chairman, told a news conference in Glasgow yesterday.

His board had previously met councillors and officials of Strathclyde Regional Council and Glasgow District Council. Although the board was often accused of hoarding land, he said, it had in the past 10 years sold 14,000 acres for £1,283,000 in Glasgow and 1,257 acres for £811,000 in the Strathclyde region, mainly to local authorities.

He said his board controlled non-operational property valued at £80m. After its decision to sell, land was, he said, offered first to local authorities. However, where land had great development value, the board endeavoured to sell it for commercial development in collaboration with the private sector. Although much of its land did go on the general market local authorities always received the first offer.

British Rail Property Board owned some 1,140 acres in Glasgow and with the closure of stations, freight yards and sidings, several valuable sites had become available for development. "It is far from our wish

to hold on to anything," he said. Mr Lawrence said the meeting with local authorities had discussed a comprehensive report by Mr Dickson Roberts, British Rail's Scottish Region estate surveyor and manager, outlining certain big difficulties.

One, he said, concerned the £3m commercial development on the 17-acre site of the former St Enoch Station, Glasgow, where planning permission had been recommended for 160 sq ft of shops, a 250-bedroom hotel and some offices, and which was now before Mr Ross, Secretary of State for Scotland.

An associated but separate development on the site involved adapted property for government offices to accommodate 4,500 civil service jobs to be transferred from the Ministry of Defence in London by 1984.

However, 1,500 permanent car parking spaces had been stipulated compared with just over 1,000 at present, for the shopping precinct in that part of the city.

"We hope that we can negotiate a reduction in the number of car parking spaces required," he said.

Mr Lawrence also mentioned the 120,000 sq ft commercial office development at Haymarket Station, Edinburgh, where the station was to be rebuilt and work to start within six months.

An interim report from the commission on Wednesday said that only five national daily or Sunday papers made profits last year and it recommended an infusion of up to £55m to pay for redundancies and new technology.

The consultants find that most houses have taken a balanced and mature approach to the financial difficulties of the industry and have produced sustainable savings. The plans for new technology are considered to be thorough and "a major move forward," reflecting

The production board of the British Film Institute, which was responsible for commissioning and funding the controversial documentary film, *Juvenile Liaison*, said yesterday that the film was responsible and scrupulous, and should be given a wide public showing.

The eight members of the board, with Mr Barrie Gavin, who was head of production at the institute at the time of the making of the film, said that in spite of the decision by the institute's board of governors that the film should not be

allowed a public showing, they felt that the film fulfilled the intention for which it was first proposed.

They felt that the film raised issues of public concern. Accordingly, we think it should be widely shown. Nevertheless, we agree that it would be correct not to show the film on television in the Blackburn area where it was made. We fully recognize that there are complicated moral issues involved in this matter, and we believe that there should be further investigation into this whole extremely confused situation.

## Three re on airpo

A father and son man were seen for a week who at Uxbridge M Middlesex, re with person E630,000 that. Hestrow sign. They are per aged 10 in of Guildford. Survey: his son, Gibbs, aged 22. Mitchell, from Winney, that I Ronald J. Wood Close, Wol



## HOME NEWS

## Lords and Commons to debate elections to European Parliament before April summit

George Clark  
Local Correspondent

Even now, it is difficult for British members of the European Parliament to carry out their legislative and constituency functions effectively, but the group's status will be improved by the introduction of direct elections to the European Parliament, thus putting the Prime Minister with guidance on the views of the parliamentarians before the summit in Luxembourg next month.

The group's views are published in a pamphlet, its chairman is Sir Anthony Royle, MP for Richmond upon Thames, who has made a further report to the House of Commons on the group's findings.

"If it is accepted that the direct mandate cannot guarantee a satisfactory relationship between the European Parliament and the British Parliament, a strong national link to be forged between them," the pamphlet states.

"This raises a number of difficulties, but one possibility would be a standing committee for European affairs, which members of both parliaments would be entitled to attend, and which could use as a forum for expressing their views on European matters." On occasions it might decide to record an opinion by voting. "But clearly such a vote should not be binding on either group of parliamentarians."

The election of 67 members to the United Kingdom would entail a single-member constituency of about half a million voters. "They would be about the size of an American

congressional district and, provided that the appropriate staff was available, they should be manageable," the group says.

It believes that the drawing of constituency boundaries is of crucial importance. "It must be seen to be fairly done if the public and the political parties are to respect the outcome. This presumably means in practice that the boundaries commissions should be given this responsibility."

Their work need not be too complicated or protracted if it is accepted in principle that the new European constituencies should consist of bundles of existing constituencies, respecting existing boundaries.

The group recognises that eventually there may be a unitary electoral system for Europe's Parliament, but because direct elections will themselves be a radical departure, it argues that procedures should be kept as familiar as possible.

"This line of thought would lead to our using our present first-past-the-post electoral system for the first elections," the group states.

In the context of direct elections it will obviously be necessary for the Conservative Party to have a close and effective alliance with like-minded parties of the centre-right in other member countries, in order to strengthen our voice against the European socialists and communists," the pamphlet states.

Our Voice in Europe (Conservative Political Centre, 36p).

## Lending Bill for authors introduced in the Lords

By Martin Huckerby  
Political Staff

Authors moved a step nearer to achieving their aim of payment for books borrowed from libraries when the public lending right Bill was introduced in the House of Lords yesterday.

It had been thought that the Bill could be a casualty of the session, when the time-table is likely to be less congested.

The Bill itself has not yet been published, but the scheme expected to be introduced is a loan-based system, which would provide authors with payment based on the number of times their books were borrowed from public libraries.

The Government has accepted the loan-based scheme, which would provide authors with payment based on the number of times their books were borrowed from public libraries.

While the amount of money available for the scheme has not been announced, there is expected to be a limit on the sum any one author could receive, thus ensuring that the writers of best-sellers did not gain too large a proportion of the subsidy.

## Hanged in cell

Peter Bye, aged 19, of Lawrence Street, York, on remand accused of burglary and robbery with violence, was found hanged in his cell at York police station early yesterday.

## Cost rules out the silencing of older aircraft

By Arthur Reed  
Air Correspondent

The hopes of hundreds of thousands of people living around Heathrow, London, and other big international airports, of some relief from aircraft noise through the fitting of "hush kits" or silencers, to jet engines have been largely dashed.

Rolls-Royce and the big United States aircraft engine manufacturers have been working for the past four years to develop hush kits and claim to have had a large degree of technical success. Fitted to a new BAC 1-11 airliner, the Rolls kits have reduced the 90-decibel noise "footprint" produced on the ground by the

two Spey engines from 25 to 12½ square miles.

But fitting airliners already in service—adapting their engines to take the hush kits—would cost around £100,000 for each more for aircraft with three engines, such as the Trident, and with four engines, like the VC 10 and the Boeing 707 and DC 8.

Most world airlines have decided that at a time of economic slump, when they are having difficulty in remaining in profit, they cannot justify spending considerable sums to quieten older jets.

The attitude of the industry is that many of those airlines are coming up to retirement and that the money would be better used towards buying the

new generation of wide-bodied jets which have quiet engines fitted as standard.

That argument will bring little solace to those living around airports. Anti-noise groups noted yesterday that aircraft such as the British Airways Trident 3, fitted with the Spey, have at least 10 years of useful life left.

A further reason why airlines are reluctant to adapt their engines—the basic technique involves introducing sound-absorbing lining and altering the jet pipe nozzles—is that performance of the airliner can be affected. On some routes that would mean carrying two fewer fare-paying passengers.

The airlines have the support of the British Government, whose estimates of the cost of retrofitting the entire fleets of British airlines, and taking into account operating penalties, go as high as £100m spread over a number of years.

Mr Clinton Davis, Under Secretary of State for Trade, told the Commons this week: "Studies show the noise reduction that might be achieved by the fitting of hush kits to older types of jet aircraft now in service are disappointing. There would be a minimal, relatively short-lived noise reduction, at large cost."

A consultative document summarizing the studies that have been made of quietening jets, and listing the difficulties met, is to be published by the Government in the next few days.

## Review of clause in Police Bill

By Our Parliamentary Staff

The Government is to reconsider the provision in the Police Bill that questions of guilt before disciplinary tribunals should be determined by a majority decision.

That undertaking was given by Mr Arthur Davidson, Parliamentary Secretary, Law Officers' Department, yesterday, after Conservative MPs on the standing committee considering the Bill sought to make decisions unanimous.

The Bill, as drafted, provides a disciplinary tribunal should consist of a chairman, normally the accused's chief officer, and two members of the Police Complaints Board, who had not been previously connected with the case. Punishment would be a matter for the chairman alone, after consultation with his two colleagues.

MPs feared that that could result in a chief constable having to punish an officer whom he did not believe was guilty of an offence.

Sir Bernard Braine, Conservative MP for Essex, South-east, said disciplinary arrangements were unsatisfactory. The police service would always accept what Parliament decreed, but it was profoundly unhappy about majority decisions.

Mr Eldon Griffiths, Conservative MP for Bury St Edmunds and parliamentary adviser to the Police Federation of England and Wales, said there should be further consultations with the Association of Chief Constables and the Metropolitan Police Commissioner. Under the Bill, the commissioner could be overruled in a fashion exceedingly damaging to his position.

What would happen to relations within the police when a police officer had to be punished by his chief constable, who was known to think him innocent? Cases of that kind would cause dissent within the service, and the press and public would recognize that the new structure was not just.

Mr Davidson said the public must feel that there was a genuine independent element in the procedure, and an accused officer must feel he was being treated fairly and justly. There was no practical alternative to a majority decision, but he accepted that the arguments were ones of principle.

Before the report stage, we will look at this again to see if there is any way we can meet the points which have been put forward by the Opposition," he said.

## Forecast of 1m jobless until 1980

Britain faces the prospect of more than a million unemployed to the end of the decade, Mr James Prior, opposition spokesman on employment, told a conference in London.

He said that if an attempt were made to get unemployment below that level it would, unless a miracle occurred, be accompanied again by rapid inflation, which would destroy any hope of getting unemployment down to reasonable levels.

The "threat to democracy" was not from "reds under the bed" but would come from "the despair and the dejection that people who are unemployed will feel about what happens at Westminster".

## Clark's £57,000 theft by awaiting pay for ex-staff

Pages clerk who told his that he would waive increase to his £115 net salary until the company could afford to pay him was drawing other men's as well as his own, it was found at Lewes Crown Court, yesterday.

By last year making a weekly profit of £500 and over seven sales £57,562.

Edward Lovegrove sentenced to 10 months' imprisonment, aged 56, of Wealden, Goudhurst, Kent, to a six years' imprisonment.

Triplow-Middleton of 10 charges of stealing £3,850 from E. & S. Ltd, building co., of Forest Row, Sussex, of falsifying the firm's books to show that sums of £526 had been paid to non-employees.

At one stage not only were the company's liabilities to pay VAT reduced but the customs and excise were actually paying over large sums of money to the company.

The company had been put into considerable financial difficulty because of its debts, but there had been an injection of money to save it from liquidation.

## Reservatives are used of out to unions

Political Staff

ervative leaders are of selling out to the unions by Mr Russell, former director of the Conservative Party, in an issue of a new fortnightly paper, The Free Press, published today.

The paper, published by the Association for Free Press, most of its front page is devoted to an article by Mr Lewis, who, he said, "don't sell out to the left", and most of its back page to the same theme.

Mr Lewis accuses Mr James of Great Sell-Out, and Mr Prior, last year, of selling out to the left.

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## Eight men hurt in vapour fire at pottery kiln

From Our Correspondent  
Stoke on Trent

Eight men working on a gas-fired kiln at a pottery in Stoke on Trent, Staffordshire, were injured yesterday when escaping vapour caught fire.

Seven were detained at North Staffordshire Royal Infirmary with burns and the eighth released after treatment.

The fire, at the Alfred Meakin Pottery Works in Tunstall, started when the men were repairing a leak in the valve assembly of a gas-fired tunnel kiln. The factory was evacuated but later resumed normal working.

The fire brigade said there had been a short, sharp fire, probably caused by accumulated petrol vapour igniting.

The man allowed home was Mr. John Rieker, of Alsager, a technical director. Mr. John Pile, aged 39, of Madeley Heath, Staffordshire, was "poorly" in hospital with extensive burns. The others were satisfactory.

## Dairy company fined £630

The discovery by customers of cement, paint, bacteria and empty pupae cases of fruit flies in their milk bottles led to United Dairies Ltd being fined a total of £630, with £100 costs at Horseferry Road Magistrates' Court, Westminster, yesterday.

The company admitted eight offences under the Milk and Dairy Regulations of failing to ensure that bottles were thoroughly clean before bottling use at their Lambeth bottling plant. It was stated to be their third conviction since October last.

## Irish ferry hits Holyhead pier

Damage estimated at £20,000 was caused to the British Rail Irish ferry, Avalon, 6,700 tons, when she struck a concrete pier as she was entering Holyhead harbour in fog early yesterday. There were 269 passengers on board but no one was injured.

## Teaching politics

An article by Professor Ralph Miliband on the teaching of politics in British universities is published today in The Times Higher Education Supplement. There are also articles on "sociology-baiting" how academics are promoted, and overseas students' fees.

*"My companion pushed his Cyrano-like nose into a pot of Beaujolais, sniffed expansively, looked up and sighed, 'Denis, I'd like to leave my nose'en pension' here for life."*

Denis Morris, Guide to the Reasures of Wine, Collins.

Of all the French vigneron, none are so doted about their wine, so crazily devoted, as those of the Beaujolais.

They drink it noisily, chewing and guzzling before swallowing, almost reluctantly.

And, as if to prove how much they love their vigorous, fruity wine, they sniffle, guzzle and swallow in beer-like quantities. In hot weather it's not uncommon for them to drink several pints a day.

Beaujolais is a 45 mile strip of mountainous, hilly country south of

Mâcon in south Burgundy. And is one of the largest and most famous producers of Appellation Contrôlée wine.

The A.C. regulations ensure that age-old, proven methods are continued, and that traditional ways of replanting, pruning, picking and ageing are not just maintained, but improved.

To achieve the coveted Appellation for its wine, a region must be blessed with certain things. A perfect combination of soil, climate and vine. And a vast store of experience on which to draw through all the traumas of this most exciting, but hazardous occupation.

Beaujolais has them in plenty. An ancestry which stretches far back into the Middle Ages. And the Gamay Vine. Virtually outlawed in nearby Côte d'Or, the Gamay, which produces a black grape with white juice, thrives in the granite-derived soil and climate of the Beaujolais mountains.

So much so that the 40,000 acres of vineyards produce a staggering 20 million gallons of wine every year.

Most of which is destined to be sniffled, guzzled and swallowed before the next vintage.

For Beaujolais is the young, brash wine of France. Some say it should be drunk within two years.

Others, "between the cellar and the top of the stairs."

Either way it has a refreshing, uncomplicated youthfulness, deep ruby red, fruity, lightish in body and fairly alcoholic, it is all too easy to drink.

Like all French wine regions, Beaujolais is made up of lots of small villages, or crus. Nine of these are known as Grand Crus or "named growths". Which means you will see their name on the bottle.

Locals will tell you that

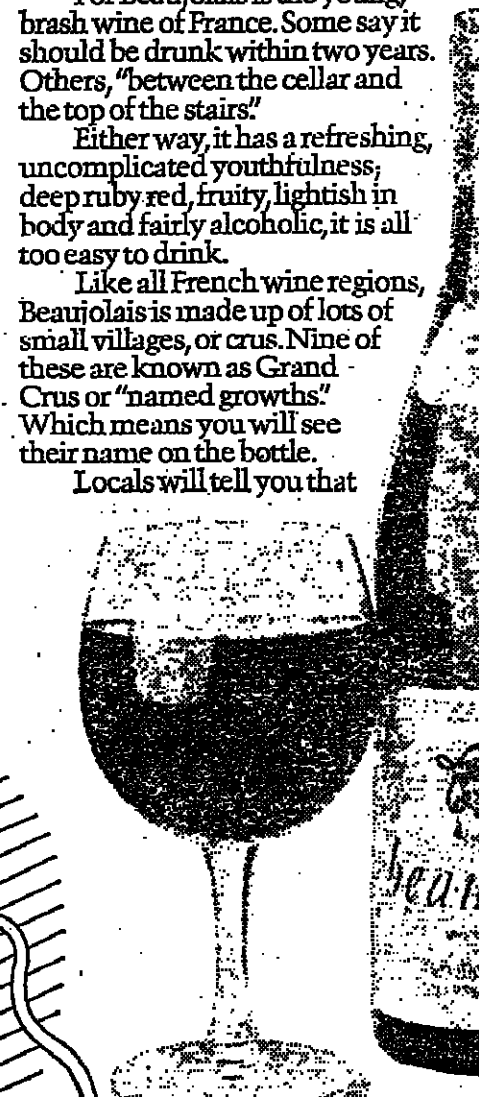
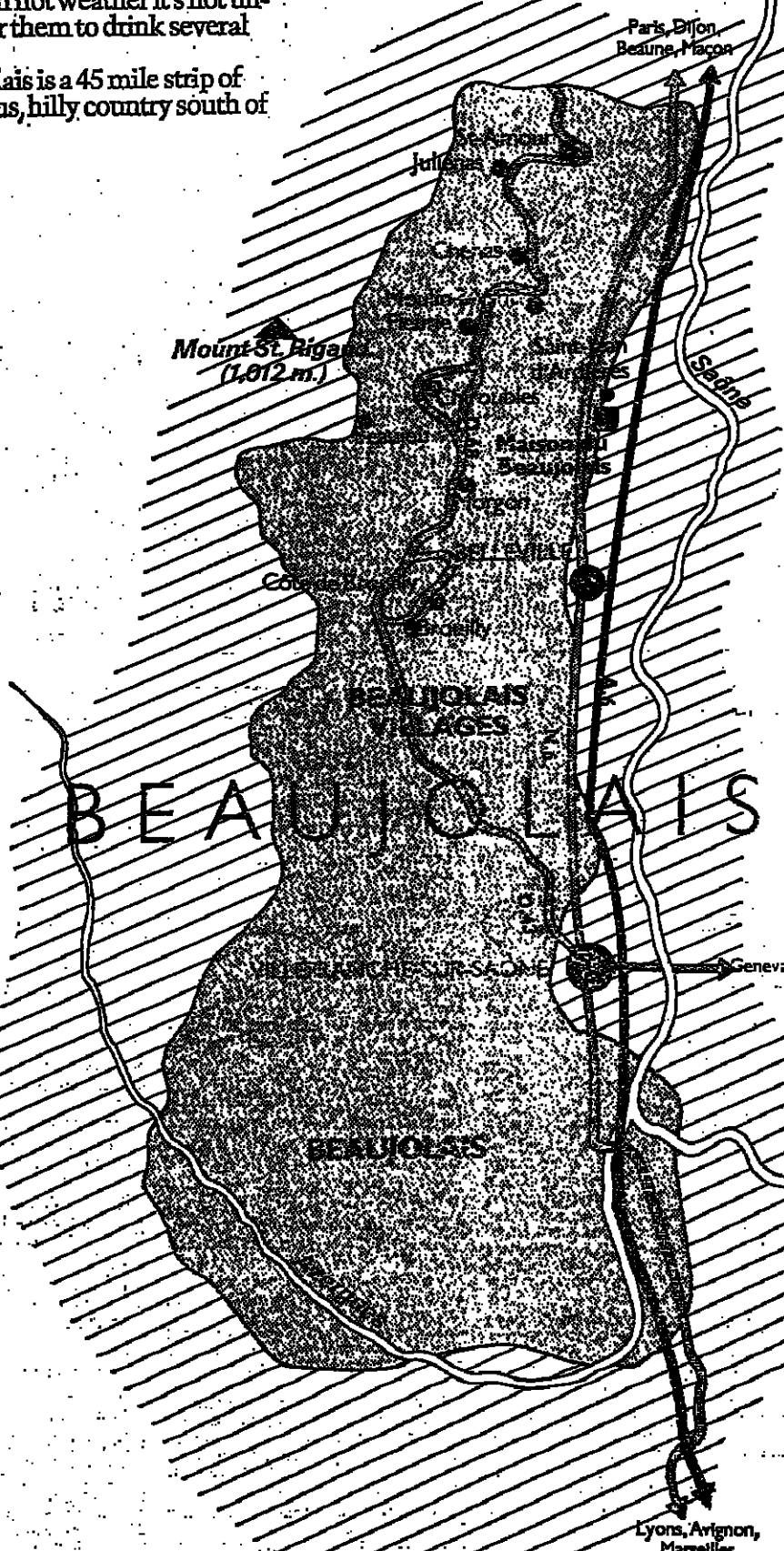
Fleurie and Chiroubles are light and silky. Moulin-à-Vent, the most distinguished. Chénas, the strongest. Morgon, the longest lasting. Julienas has the most substance and vigour.

Saint-Amour is lightest. Brouilly is grapy and rich. And Côte de Brouilly is grapy and richer.

But these are subtle differences. More important is what they all have in common. The beautiful, inviting quality given by the Gamay. One of the most distinctive and powerful bouquets of all.

Beaujolais is perhaps the most French of French wines. Made for drinking.

One glass for pleasure. Two glasses for happiness. Three glasses for song. Four glasses for escape into dreams. As someone once said, "Beaujolais brings laughter to the table."





PARLIAMENT, March 18, 1976

## Government prepared to assist Mozambique for financial loss through implementing sanctions

House of Commons  
Mr. Malcolm Rifkind (Edinburgh, Highlands, C) asked the Prime Minister to pay an official visit to Mozambique.

Mr. Harold Wilson (Huyton, Lancashire, L) said at present no plans to do so.

Mr. Rifkind—He will have plenty of time on his hands to accept all the invitations he receives to visit exotic world capitals. (Laughter.)

It would be intolerable for Britain to enter into a financial commitment to the Mozambique Government without a clear and unambiguous guarantee from that government that it will not condone, approve nor permit any armed intervention from Mozambique to what is still British territory. (Conservative cheers.)

Mr. Wilson—I hope he is not suggesting we should go back on a unilateral agreement of the Commonwealth conference which I reported to the House at the time, and on the view now taken by the Security Council.

We have made clear our opposition to the settlement of the Rhodesian dispute by terrorism or bloodshed, but we are certainly prepared as we agreed at the Commonwealth conference and as is now the wish of the Security Council, to assist Mozambique in its struggle against the Rhodesian Government.

Mr. Benjamin Ford (Bradford, Yorkshire, L)—Some of us are sure that we will not be visiting southern Africa in the near future. He should speak to some of our friends in the House of Commons who are in charge of the Africa solidarity funds to ensure these resources are diverted to helping oppressed people wherever they are in that area.

Mr. Wilson—Yes. This has always been my view.

Mr. Eiden Griffiths (Bury St Edmunds, C) asked the Prime Minister to pay an official visit to Mozambique. He said that the situation in southern and central Africa is extremely dangerous and great care will be needed to prevent minor clashes from escalating into a full scale war.

He should improve urgently the channels of communication between this country and the black and white leaders of Rhodesia. In particular, he should accept that there is one thing on which Mr. Smith and Mr. Vorster of South Africa are now agreed: it is that they want to see a British presence.

The Speaker (Mr. George Thomas)—Order. That is enough.

Mr. Wilson—I recognize Mr. Griffiths is trying to help this matter. I understand he has spent some time in this area in the last few days. I have no doubt of his sincerity in this matter. He should put at the disposal of the Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary all the information he has gathered.

We naturally get our own direct reports of the views of some of the leaders. He has mentioned Mr. Vorster. Mr. Griffiths is able to tell him.

Mr. John Lee (Birmingham, Midlands, L)—The time is approaching when he might go to Mozambique. We should be taking the initiative in this matter and setting about establishing a first law of 1965.

Mr. Wilson—I do not believe it would be the view of our Government in a military sense. (Interruptions)—certainly, as Mr. Griffiths has made clear, we support a white minority in opposition to majority rule when having had, on the suggestion of successive governments going back to the time of Sir Alec Douglas-Home, every chance of getting a satisfactory settlement.

There is no question of any intervention. If we have any role to play in this area, we will be ready to consider it. It has to be something that looks like succeeding and no risk of further manoeuvring.

Mr. Margaret Thatcher, Leader of the Opposition (Barnet, Finchley, C)—Does he accept that the Mozambique Government is either condoning or fostering terrorism against black and white Rhodesians from the illegal regime in Rhodesia? Is it ours and not the Commonwealth's?

Many of us think it quite wrong to give aid to Mozambique in these circumstances.

Mr. Wilson—I do not accept his views about fomenting in this matter. Mozambique has shown great patience and tolerance. (Conservative cheers.)

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## Payments to families of murdered soldiers

Mr. Cyril Townsend (Bexley, Kent, C) asked the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland to be satisfied with the basis for compensation awards granted under the Criminal Injuries to Persons (Compensation) Act (Northern Ireland) 1968, and if the working party set up to review the operation of the Act was ready to report.

Mr. Dennis Canham, Under Secretary (Mansfield, L)—Everyone must have sympathy with the victims of violence and especially those who are injured in the execution of their duties in upholding the law. It is a pity that the payment of appropriate compensation, but we cannot be unmindful of the cost to public funds.

The working party which the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland set up to review the present legislation on personal injuries compensation has reached an advanced stage. Northern Ireland officials are in close consultation with those engaged on the review in Great Britain, following which we look forward to receiving a report.

Mr. Townsend—I asked a similar question about 2 years ago and received a similar unsatisfactory answer. British servicemen in Northern Ireland and their dependants have every reason to be aggrieved that this report has been delayed about the ways of Whitehall.

Mr. Canham—I would not think that what Mr. Townsend has said is true. Nobody wants this compensation to be a burden on the public purse. The working party is covering the risk of injury or death. Under the Act this has to be taken into account.

Mr. Gerard Pitt (Belfast, West, SDP)—The compensation awarded to the families of soldiers killed in the 1968 Act is £10,000. This is a very small sum of money. It is a pity that this report has been delayed about the ways of Whitehall.

Mr. Canham—I would not think that what Mr. Townsend has said is true. Nobody wants this compensation to be a burden on the public purse. The working party is covering the risk of injury or death. Under the Act this has to be taken into account.

## Conscience clause in union Bill would lead to uncertainty and difficulty for courts-min

Lords amendments to the Trade Union and Labour Relations (Amendment) Bill were considered.

On Clause 1 (Repeal of the principal Act),

Mr. Michael Foot, Secretary of State for Employment (Edinburgh, L), moved that the House disagree with the Lords first amendment to the Bill.

He said that the Lords amendment would have the effect of making the dismissal of a person who refused to join a closed shop automatically unlawful. This would be a very serious matter for a tribunal found that he or she was guilty of misconduct on grounds of sincerely held conscientious conviction not motivated by any material advantage.

He said that the House might have thought that the Lords amendment would be a very serious matter for a tribunal found that he or she was guilty of misconduct on grounds of sincerely held conscientious conviction not motivated by any material advantage.

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apply if it had the effect "in relation to the time being of the class to which it relates (whether or not there is a condition of employment)". Employees would also be required to belong to a "specified" union, as in the principal Act.

The definitions were amended to delete reference to every or all employees having to belong to a union. The changes should help, particularly with informal "custom and practice" arrangements in which unions and employers accepted that certain individuals or groups with strong objections to joining a closed shop should not have to do so. This would allow for individual objection even where no conscience objection provision was built into the agreement.

If the Harbham amendment was adopted (he went on) we would lose all the advantages which would be gained from the careful way in which we have tried to draft this legislation and what we would be left with would be a number of cases to occur in which arguments would go to the courts as to what was to be provided in the Harbham clause. Nobody would know how much this would lead to fresh industrial troubles or what would be the protection afforded to the individuals concerned.

The Bill should be accepted and the Lords amendment rejected. He said that the House should not be misled by the Lords amendment which would be a very serious matter for a tribunal found that he or she was guilty of misconduct on grounds of sincerely held conscientious conviction not motivated by any material advantage.

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together to enter into agreements of the toughest and most restrictive kind. If the amendment was accepted, employers would be required to accept the interests of the trade unionists in the case of the closed shop. The Lords amendment would limit in any way the operation of such a closed shop.

There was no possibility of disruption of industrial peace or of action on the closed shop or trade union rights. The amendment did not limit the possible operation of the closed shop. It merely provided that a closed shop should not be wider than circumstances would otherwise be the case. The person dismissed when there was a closed shop in operation would be entitled to compensation.

Compensation would not come from the union, and the employee would not in most cases get his job back, but he would be compensated from the employer.

The Opposition found it strange that the Labour Party, with its history of honourable support for freedom of conscience, even when it was a minority, should now seek to take that view and wish to confine itself to support of a purely religious objection to the closed shop.

Before the Ferrybridge incident it was possible to have a closed shop which was not a condition of employment. The amendment would not be a condition of employment.

The amendment was designed to give a little more scope to the still wider view of conscience which the individual on grounds of conscience or at least compensation from his employer.

Mr. Kenneth Clarke (Rushcliffe, C) said agencies were not to have

their personal

but he was

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## Improved basic rights for crofters

House of Lords  
The Education (Scotland) Bill and the International Carriage of Perishable Foodstuffs Bill were read the third time and passed.

The Water Charges Bill passed report stage.

Lord Kirkcaldy, Minister of State, Scottish Office, moving the second reading of the Crofting Reform (Scotland) Bill, said it would remove the constraints preventing crofters from developing their croft to its full potential, agriculturally and non-agriculturally. Reform was long overdue.

The Bill gave crofters three basic rights. The first was an inalienable right to acquire his house site and a reasonable amount of garden ground. The second was a qualified right to acquire his in-by croft land at its crofting value. The third was the right to develop his croft out of bare and inhospitable land, the crofter's feeling for his land goes far beyond that of an ordinary tenant and if more akin to that of an owner.

Lord Campbell of Croft, for the Opposition, said changes in the crofting system were needed because desirable development for non-agricultural purposes was still being discouraged by the way the system operated.

Projects connected with tourism and with services to the new communities which had been growing as a result of developments related to North Sea oil and other matters had been retarded because of the procedures of the crofting system.

The Earl of Cromartie said he had some good crofts. He favoured the Bill but feared it could open the door to one of the worst horrors sprouting up on crofting land, especially in areas of scenic beauty.

Lord Burton said he was the landlord of about a dozen crofts. The crofter, who had been painted as a poor, struggling occupier of ground, was in fact the most subdivided, fortunate person in the country. It was his duty as a landlord to do something for those in social need.

The Government should consider an amendment to prevent more land being brought into the crofting tenure.

## Giro to explore demand for credit cards

The Post Office (Banking Services) Bill which has passed the Commons, was considered in committee.

Lord Aberdeen, an Opposition spokesman on Treasury matters, moved an amendment to ensure that Giro should not be able to issue credit cards without approval of the Secretary of State and the Treasury.

He said both Access and Barclaycard had proved expensive to set up and Giro involved use of public money. Why, therefore, did the Government want Giro to risk this money in such a hazardous venture?

Lord Carver said he was a director of the National Westminster Bank, although he was speaking for himself. There were already many credit cards available and it was a question of judgment whether this was the right time to launch another.

Lord Melchett, Under-Secretary for Industry, said there had been only one agreement in principle on introduction of credit cards so that Giro could explore the potential for them. But he was not the private sector was doing well.

Giro, in its own commercial judgment, to submit proposals they would be considered by the appropriate authorities. For the time being, the Treasury's statutory powers under the Post Office Act would be involved were Giro to issue credit cards.

The amendment was withdrawn. The committee stage was concluded.

House adjourned, 6.17 pm.

## Supply of Centurion parts to S Africa

Mr. Richard Luce (Shoreham, Sussex, C) asked the Prime Minister whether the problems of southern Africa at the forthcoming meeting of the EEC heads of state, said one of his friends, would be the Prime Minister's concern with Community heads of state make it plain now to Mr. Nixon and Mr. Smith that if they were to support a white minority in opposition to majority rule when having had, on the suggestion of successive governments going back to the time of Sir Alec Douglas-Home, every chance of getting a satisfactory settlement.

Mr. Wilson—I do not believe it would be the view of our Government in a military sense. (Interruptions)—certainly, as Mr. Griffiths has made clear, we support a white minority in opposition to majority rule when having had, on the suggestion of successive governments going back to the time of Sir Alec Douglas-Home, every chance of getting a satisfactory settlement.

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## Supply of Centurion parts to S Africa

Mr. Richard Luce (Shoreham, Sussex, C) asked the Prime Minister whether the problems of southern Africa at the forthcoming meeting of the EEC heads of state, said one of his friends, would be the Prime Minister's concern with Community heads of state make it plain now to Mr. Nixon and Mr. Smith that if they were to support a white minority in opposition to majority rule when having had, on the suggestion of successive governments going back to the time of Sir Alec Douglas-Home, every chance of getting a satisfactory settlement.

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## WEST EUROPE

## European Community to go ahead with summit in Luxembourg despite Mr Wilson's resignation

By Michael Hornsby  
Luxembourg, March 18  
The Luxembourg Government said today that no summit had been received for postponement of the next EEC summit meeting, which is still due to take place in the Grand Duchy as planned on April 1 and 2.

Brussels, likewise, there is no evidence to support the view that the Nine might be so concerned to delay the summit as to risk the attendance of a "lame duck" British Minister, whose capacity to take decisions on important issues might be doubted.

As far as the British representation in Brussels is concerned, the instructions from the Cabinet Office in London "business as usual." The fact that Mr Wilson is seen as a reason for postponing either the summit or next week's important council of EEC energy ministers to discuss the European Commission's proposals on a floor price for oil.

In the meantime, the Nine are in consultation as to whether the present monetary crisis, in the wake of the withdrawal of the French franc from the European currency float (the "snake") and the collapse of the lira, should be included as a separate item on the agenda for the summit, apart from discussion of more general economic problems.

In a separate move, the European Commission today proclaimed itself satisfied that the emergency economic measures taken last night by the Italian Government did not contravene EEC rules, and that they would "contribute effectively" within the framework of the Community solidarity, to the recovery of the Italian economy.

According to informed

sources, Italy consulted the Commission before taking last night's measures and was persuaded to drop plans for import quotas on oil, meat, wool and paper, which were said to have been included in the original draft of the austerity package drawn up by Signor Aldo Moro, the Italian Prime Minister.

Import controls would have infringed EEC free trade regulations and would also have been in breach of the conditions attached to the Community-backed loan of \$1,000 million which EEC finance ministers agreed to advance Italy earlier this week.

Bonn, March 18.—Mr Roy Hattersley, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, has postponed a visit to Bonn because of Mr Wilson's decision.

The visit had been arranged for Monday to Wednesday next. It will now take place at a later date.—Reuter.

## EEC future on agenda of Giscard Cabinet

From Richard Wigg  
Paris, March 18  
President Giscard d'Estaing today reaffirmed France's determination, "whatever the difficulties", to continue making its contribution to efforts for the political organisation of Europe. He was addressing a Cabinet meeting concentrating on the future of European institutions, in particular the question of direct elections to the European Parliament.

The meeting also is believed to have reviewed all the more pressing problems now for the European Community, including the disrupting effects of the present grave monetary disorders. According to a spokesman, the President sounded all his ministers for their views on the Community's future: the meeting was the second to prepare the French position for the Luxembourg summit, due on April 1.

Beyond President Giscard d'Estaing's reaffirmation of the broad principle, no details emerged, and a further Cabinet meeting is to be held before the end of the month.

However, on direct elections about which the Gaullist Party (UDR) executives expressed more reservations earlier this week, M. Roger Chirac, leader of the President's Independent Republican Party in Parliament, today emphasized its intention to continue to support the idea.

The President, who is committed to the concept of direct elections, has sought in the past to reassure the Gaullists, the biggest party in the coalition supporting him, that the powers of the European Parliament would be kept strictly to those foreseen under the Treaty of Rome.

Meanwhile, M. Chirac, the Prime Minister, decided that the tactics of the hour required him to take a highly nationalistic line over the meeting, lunch today between M. Francois Mitterrand, the Socialist leader, and Mr Kenneth Rush, the United States Ambassador in Paris.

After the Cabinet, M. Chirac told reporters he found it "very shocking" that a French politician should engage in such talks "only a few days after declarations by the American authorities which represent an out of place intervention in the internal affairs of our country."

This was a reference to the recent warnings, first by General Haig, the Supreme Commander in Europe, and later by Dr Kissinger, the American Secretary of State, about the risks the Atlantic Alliance would run if the communists in West European countries like France and Italy should ever come to take part in government.

M. Chirac evidently feels after the cantonal election setback that Mitterrand must be the Government's primary target.

All this heightened the interest in M. Mitterrand's meeting with Mr Rush. The Socialist leader said afterwards that he believed the United States was "realizing more and more that the idea of a government of the united left (Socialists and Communists) was becoming increasingly probable" in France.

## Luxury liner occupied by printers

Our Own Correspondent  
March 18  
A hundred and fifty Parisians early today began an "occupation" of the transatlantic luxury liner, laid up in Le Havre to draw attention to their problems.

They used to work for Le Havre but were dismissed more than a year ago. Emile Amaury, the printer, who now prints elsewhere, with non-Communist printers, want to draw attention to redundancies due to production methods.

The left-wing university kept up for the second day demonstrations against the reforms. Thousands gathered, shouting "The printer is going to be hot."

## Nurses' action a test for Lisbon regime

Lisbon, March 18.—The Portuguese Government will call in troops if necessary to end a work to rule by thousands of state nurses, an official spokesman said today. The work to rule, which came after a nationwide nurses' strike, is a test issue for the Government, with a wave of industrial unrest now sweeping Portugal less than six weeks before next month's parliamentary elections.

Representatives of the nurses decided earlier today to end the strike but announced a "work to rule" instead. The Government spokesman said: "If necessary, we will put the hospitals under military control and draft the nurses."

In a speech yesterday to his troops, Brigadier Vasco Lourenço, head of the Lisbon

military region, condemned the strike. He said political forces were exploiting a mass of unemployed wage claimants now being pressed by Portuguese workers and there were indications that this was part of an attempt to put off the April 25 elections. He added that the forthcoming campaign would be "more violent than ever."

The Government spokesman said most of the country's 20,000 state nurses had returned to work, but he admitted that the work to rule was paralysing most hospitals in Lisbon and the south.

This could not be tolerated. "We have already dismissed the board of one Lisbon hospital and we will dismiss more unless they call in police to make the nurses return to work."—Reuter.

## Retender refused entry to Spain

Harry Debelius  
Madrid, March 18  
The Pretender to the Spanish throne, Carlos Hugo, was refused entry into Spain today by air. He was put on the same aircraft and sent to Paris, where his Princess Irene of Holland, with their four children, prince, aged 45, was welcomed by Generalissimo Franco in December, 1963.

Jose Maria de Zavala, military general of the Carlist party, who was at the airport to meet him with about 20 members, denounced his entry tonight as a "fascist statement, prepared for the arrival, the intended to proclaim that a socialist monarchy, ruling over a federal state, alternative to the present monarch under King Juan Carlos.

Carlism enjoy considerable support in certain limited areas of Spain notably around Pamplona. Except minority wing, which is with the extreme right, army is illegal and associated with several outlawed left-wing movements.

The Government today raised the minimum wage in Spain by 23 per cent to 345 pesetas a week. This amounts to more than £19 per week, since Spaniards get seven days' pay for a six-day week.

At a news conference tonight, Señor Adolfo Marti Garmelo, Minister of Information and Tourism, said the Government had submitted a proposed law to the Cortes (Parliament) defining the types of political organizations which will be permitted in the near future. It would ban any party or organization which was contrary to good morals or aiming at violent subversion.

Edward Mortimer writes: A hint of compromise between the Spanish Communist Party and the present regime was offered in London yesterday by Professor Enrique Tierno Galvan, leader of the People's Socialist Party (PSP). This party is allied with the Communists.

Professor Tierno predictably insisted at a press conference that the Communists should not

and could not be excluded from legal political life in Spain.

But when asked if his own party would take part in legal politics even if the Communists were excluded, he replied that this might be possible, provided that the Government was prepared to negotiate with the opposition and that the Communists agreed to be represented in the negotiations by "another group."

Observers consider that this group could be the PSP itself, or alternatively that a new party might be formed by the well-known economist, Professor Ramon Mampias, who is considered by many people as an unofficial exponent of the Communist Party's views.

The implication seems to be that the Communists recognize the need for their formal exclusion from politics during a transitional period, because of the resistance of survivors from the Franco regime in the Army and elsewhere, and might be prepared to make things easier for the Government if they were convinced that this exclusion would be only temporary.

Leading article, page 15

French suspicion allayed by Mr Callaghan

From Our Diplomatic Correspondent  
Recent misunderstandings that have clouded Anglo-French relations appeared to have been cleared up yesterday during the visit of M. Sauvagnargues, the French Foreign Minister, to London.

Mr Callaghan, the Foreign Secretary, was able to tell his visitor that Britain had played no part in causing the recent difficulties of the French franc.

"I have no reason to doubt Mr Callaghan's assurance," M. Sauvagnargues said.

He added that there had been differences between the British and the French for the past thousand years, but this did not clear the fundamentally good relations between the two countries.

Topics discussed by the two ministers yesterday included direct elections to the European Parliament.

## Italy's ruling party calm

From page 1  
The party was not concerned but lay, not religious trial.

Recent weeks, the Democrats have been heavy ecclesiastical to maintain a firm against moves to have a no longer recorded as e).

he strictly moral question a party widely accused of corruption, Signor Zaccagnini at politics was becoming a by a section of public as "something dirty."

that there was public ne of political parties, al conduct of politicians, be subject to strict supervision so far had been e said. "The use of means of proselytism of individuals or must be immediately used and promptly ed."

e the Christian Democrats was speaking, talks were held elsewhere on the al put forward by Signor a Malita, the Republican for a government of emergency, to include from the Communists Liberals on the right of ristian Democrats.

Milan newspaper e della this morning published a leading article of "An Appeal to Christian Democrats", said that the party could only if it showed itself to accept the necessity new way of ruling the e, and that a wages an increase in production and an attack on mism could be content only by a government had the backing of the mists.

## Nato employees stage a 'desk-in' protest

From David Cross  
Brussels, March 18  
Nato's 2,200 civil servants today staged their first work stoppage in the alliance's 26 years of existence.

Their 24-hour protest, which took the form of sitting at their desks but not working, was in support of their demands for increased cost-of-living allowances.

The staff association, which includes most permanent officials but not diplomats, military staff and employees of national delegations, maintains that member governments have gone back on their commitment to pay compensation for rises in the cost of living.

Until last summer, every five per cent increase in the cost of living index was reflected in a corresponding rise in allowances to staff. But, because of the fight against inflation, member

governments have since been prepared to pay only partial compensation.

Journalists who tried to enter Nato headquarters on the outskirts of Brussels today were unable to see for themselves how effective the "desk-in" had been. They were stopped by guards at the perimeter wire and prevented from entering the Nato compound.

The official Nato spokesman confirmed by telephone that the work stoppage was on but declined to give further details, apparently out of solidarity with his colleagues. By contrast Dr Joseph Luns, the Secretary-General, was reportedly at his desk and working.

One disappointed journalist said: "Even if we had been allowed in it would almost certainly have been impossible to tell whether the staff were acting normally or otherwise."

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## British fitters beaten by jobless Danes

Copenhagen, March 18.—Eight British fitters whose employment in building projects here led to a strike were beaten up by a group of unemployed Danes shortly after their arrival, their manager said today.

Mr Edward Willis, the project engineer, said the incident happened on the site shortly before the start of the strike by 500 construction workers which is in its fourteenth day.

The strikers have adopted a resolution calling for the removal of the Britons and the reemployment of sacked Danes as conditions for a return to work.

The strikers are also angered by the fact that the Britons were hired during recent high unemployment in Denmark and at cheaper rates than those paid to Danish workers.

Union spokesman said the British fitters were being paid 14 kroner (£1.12) an hour—25 kroner (£2) an hour less than the rate for Danes. But Mr Willis said this was "absolute nonsense"—Reuter.

## Bundestag votes to extend worker participation

From Dan van der Var  
Bonn, March 18  
The Bundestag voted by a big majority today to extend worker participation in management to all West German companies with more than 2,000 employees.

By passing the Bill through its final stages, Parliament officially closed one of the lengthiest and most complicated political controversies of recent times here. But since the legislation does not satisfy the Government, the Opposition or the trade union movement, the issue is bound to come alive again one day.

Mitbestimmung (worker participation) is a system designed to give workers a real say in industrial management and is unique to West Germany. Hitherto it has applied exclusively to the coal and steel industries under a law enacted in 1951.

The new law will extend a variation of this scheme to West Germany's 600 biggest companies, including some which are foreign owned, though not in so radical a form as in coal and steel.

The ruling Social Democrats entered the 1972 election campaign with a promise to extend Mitbestimmung to the "top 600" on a basis of parity between representatives of shareholders and workers. Their smaller coalition partners, the Free Democrats, resisted this to the last, and won their point.

They insisted that the representative of company executives on the supervisory board—the instrument of Mitbestimmung which will wield supreme power in affected companies—should be counted as belonging to the workers' side. They also saw to it that the chairman, who has a casting vote in a deadlock, cannot be elected against the wishes of shareholders.

Since the Bill has also been modified to meet Opposition objections, it represents a compromise on a compromise. The Social Democrats have been forced to retreat into saying that party-Mitbestimmung remains their long-term goal, and their trades union supporters reluctantly accept the Bill as a qualified step in the right direction.

## Announcing Thames Television New York: The first British TV station in America

In September, from the television mast on the Empire State Building, a British television service will begin transmissions to the ten million people of New York.

To mark the US Bicentennial and the 21st anniversary of ITV in Britain, New York's Channel 9 will be devoted to a week of programmes from Thames Television of London.

Thames Television New York will make broadcasting history. It will be a completely British television service, with a wide range of British programmes (already recognised as outstanding by American viewers), a British-style news service, British films, British announcers and presentation, and advertising in the British format in commercial breaks between programmes.

Planned as a massive promotional event in America's biggest and most influential city, the week will be a once-in-a-lifetime showcase for British products, services and tourism as well as for British television.

If you would like further details of the week or its advertising opportunities, please write to:

George A Cooper  
Managing Director  
Thames Television  
206 Euston Road London NW1 3BB  
01-387 9494







# BRITISH GAS











## THE ARTS

## From Anthea: the saviour who went native

The Man Who Fell to Earth (x)  
Leicester Square  
The Hindenburg (a)  
Casino  
Mahogany (aa)  
Plaza 2

An American paperback of a decade or so ago, Walter Tevis's *The Man Who Fell to Earth* is a pleasant and simple enough science-fiction tale with a Christ theme, about a creature of superior intelligence who is sent to earth from another planet, Anthea. Anthea has already passed centuries ago through all the follies on which Earth is bent; and as a result have exhausted all the natural resources of their planet. The mission of "Mr Newton", as the visitor calls himself in his earthly disguise, seems to be at once to save the world and to get a share of the Earth's resources for Anthea.

With his superior technological knowledge, Newton easily and rapidly conquers the American electronics world, to become a multi-millionaire. He goes on discovering drink and a sentimental affection for the inferior race. But mankind is doomed always to destroy its Messiahs. This time it is the CIA and the FBI who all but crucify Newton, leaving his eyes blinded, his mind crumbled and his mission unaccomplished.

For their film adaptation Nicholas Roeg and the writer Paul Mayersberg have vastly elaborated the basic parable. The novel tells how Newton had learnt to write English from a close-up in Herman J. Mankiewicz's *A Letter to Three Wives*, monitored by Anthea television. The film is packed with movie references. Newton is given to sitting in front of a whole battery of television sets, desperately absorbing images—alongside commercials and anonymous Westerns there are long quotations from W. H. Auden's *The Nightingale* and *The Road*, *The Third Man*—like some necessary and yet tormenting narcotic.

Other references are less direct but more profound. Newton, with his meteoric success and industrial empire, has become an extraterrestrial Citizen Kane: the new resemblance of his second-in-command Mr Farnsworth (Buck Henry) to Kane's Mr Bernstein, and of the elevation and decline of his earthly mistress Mary Lou (Barbara Blythe) to Susan Alexander, the second Mrs Kane, are emphasised by the insistent "Mr." form of address which also characterises the Kane story.

There are influences, conscious or not, from 2001, from *A Clockwork Orange*, from *Orpheus* (the final scenes in the half-destroyed mansion) and from the most monumental of all science-fiction films, Andrei Tarkovsky's *Solaris*.

The scenario elaborates the basic story: Newton's discovery of human affection through the odd liaison with the blousy, drunken, seductive Mary Lou/Betty Jo (Candy Clark) is built up to provide a central romantic theme. Less comprehensible, Nathan Bryce, the research scientist and the only other human being close



David Bowie

to Newton, is made into a satyr, which provides the film with some bits of very explicit sexuality (and the fact that they are left intact shows that the British censors, at least, reverence the film as art).

As well as these elaborations, the film adds to the story incoherence, confusion and obscurity. Nicholas Roeg's earlier films—*Performance*, *Walkabout* and *Don't Look Now*—have shown that his tastes and talent incline to the irrational, the surreal, *Resonance* games with time; and evidently the whole object of the adaptation has been to take the story in these directions. Yet you feel finally that all that has been achieved has been to impose a haze and aura of mystery and enigma where essentially there is none; to turn a simple tale into the sort of fragmented accumulation of sensations that has become fashionable (as a by-product, maybe, both of the fragmented concentration produced by years of exposure to television and of the psychedelic perceptions of drug hallucination).

The spectator is constantly distracted by factors that needlessly appear illogical at a literal level (how is it that

with all that technological mastery Anthea looks as backward as *Nanook of the North*), by ideas that are predated and then apparently forgotten (Newton's power to perceive other periods of time is briefly, irrelevantly, revealed by the sudden, isolated vision of a group of seventeenth-century soldiers in a landscape).

Comparisons with *Solaris* are irresistible: there the pleasure was that the deeper you plunged into the experiments with space and time, the more complex the enigmas and mysteries became. Here the momentary pleasures of the film are faces you only lit the wrecked remains of a naive and lucid fable.

The surfaces are beguiling, of course. Roeg is as accomplished and as inventive as *met-en-scène* as Britain possesses, a master of arresting images and haunting sound effects. Working with a sympathetic director of photography, Anthony Richmond, he has given the film a visual aura of Caspar David Friedrich Romanticism: a special luminosity produced out of city lights, of shimmering water, of reflections in spectacles or eyes.

It was a happy inspiration,

too, to cast David Bowie, whose androgynous features, frail body, gentle, insolent eyes and slight, fearful facial tremors exactly embody the Anthea of Tevis's book. Buck Henry, peering through pebble glasses, is a marvellous mixture of nifty greed and guile. For Rip Torn and Candy Clark, fragmented characters and the abrupt age changes indicated by make-up inevitably make their performances something in the nature of tight-rope acts.

*The Hindenburg* is a late-comer in the disaster film genre, but distinguished about the rest by being based on true events. The film begins with a period newsreel about the marvels of the great dirigible, and ends with an ingenious integration of reconstructed shots with contemporary news film and that commentary upon the disaster by a sobbing reporter which is one of the most fan'lar relics from the historical archives of radio broadcasting.

All this, the meticulous special effects work (just imperfect enough to keep you in the dark about the disaster) and the loving re-creation of the art deco salons and strange

geometry of the working parts of the flying monster has a documentary fascination. The price to be paid is the same as on any package tour—the predictable old crowd of fellow-travellers. Anne Bancroft combines several stock characters—the woman with a secret, the woman with a drug problem, the woman with a dead daughter anxiously waiting at the airport. Robert Clary is the tiresome and importunate little vaudeville clown whom you might expect to be played by Burgess Meredith, while Meredith himself plays a card sharp with a faked limp. Gig Young is the disillusioned man of the world.

Nelson Gidding's screenplay is based on Miles Moore's book and hypothesis that the Hindenburg accident which blew up the Hindenburg as it came in to land at Lakehurst, NJ, in 1937 was the result of sabotage by anti-Nazi resistance. William Atherton plays the young zealot, George C. Scott is the intelligence man in charge of security—a formidable task when every soul aboard the craft acts so suspiciously.

The anticlimax is to discover, after all those years of sharing the anguish of that radio commentator, that the outcome wasn't so bad at all. Thirteen passengers died, it is true, but according to the film they included the baddies, the disillusioned and the extras. Twenty-two crew members died, but they seem to have been beer-swilling Nazis. Sixty-two people survived, including Ann Bancroft and Burgess Meredith, not to speak of the lovely Delamater whose welfare will be the proper concern of British audiences.

If ears and memory do not deceive the man in the film says: "There's only one word to describe something that is soft... and warm... and brown..." and then elucidates, just when your worst fears seem about to be realized, "Mahogany!"

Before becoming Mahogany, the international fashion model, Tracy Chambers from Chicago's South Side (Diana Ross) has struggled to make her way in the fashion world (and struggle she well might, seeing how appalling are her creations, designed for the film by Miss Ross herself).

Whirled off into the decadent international set in Rome by a sexually impotent and mentally unstable photographer (Anthony Perkins), she is in turn taken up by an apparently lesbian advertising agent (Marisa Mell) and a Roman millionaire (Jean-Pierre Aumont). Triumphant and utterly unrepentant, she is a dinner-jacket show of exorbitantly awful dresses, only to find that all the time she only really wants the dedicated social worker and politician from back home in Chicago.

Peg's Paper lives again, in fact—extravagant wishdreams of glamour purposefully reconciled with purposeful moral reclamation. The director is Berry Gordy, a wonder boy from the South, a young empire, whose primitive narrative style at least suits the pretensions of the material.

David Robinson

13 Rue de l'Amour  
Phoenix

## Irving Wardle

It is a bad sign when you can follow every move in a Feydeau farce and one emerges from this American adaptation of *Monsieur Chasse* with a thorough grasp of the plot.

Not that I propose to prove this with a blow-by-blow synopsis, beyond noting the unusual erotic proportions of four men to one woman, and the central situation of a husband who is cuckolding the same man whom he is using as a marital alibi. Duchotelle claims to be going off on hunting expeditions with his old wife, Daddy is out hunting for his affair with Birabeau's estranged wife. We never get to see Mme Birabeau. The only female sex object that appears on stage is Duchotelle's wife, Leontine, who virtuously resists the attentions of the rumbler who Daddy is out hunting for. The piece is low on sensuality, even for Feydeau. These people are programmed to act in a certain way, and sex is simply the means of switching on their jealousy, panic, vengeance and lies. Lies above all. Duchotelle being an artist in half-truths, double-meanings, and brazen inventions, who makes it a point of honour never to admit defeat, even when his manning of the basket is opened up to reveal a succulent array of game pies thoughtfully packed by the deaf butcher. It is a heroic act capped with a pronouncement of classic dignity: "I don't know how to lie."

That line ought to convulse the house, but not much happened on Wednesday. And for this I feel less inclined to blame James Grout, whose *Humpty Dumpty* with nine lives, than the show's

Out of practice  
Theatre Royal,  
Stratford, E

## Charles Lewsen

This is the second version in as many months that I have seen of Feydeau's first successful farce, *Tailleur Pour Dames* (1884); and even more than in Oxford, I found myself on Wednesday, admiring the master's skill in ringing changes out of confusion.

As ever, the recipe is to create a crisis in which a man is obliged to improvise a series of improbable and conflicting lies, which those about him believe with instant, passionate, and, as it were, sectarian faith. Thus our hero, Dr Molinoux, assures his mother-in-law early that his mistress's husband is one of his less fortunate patients, and persuades the landlady that Mama is a distinguished foreigner; an hour later the device is detonated in the surreal: the Queen of Patagonia!; she, "this eccentric woman," does not show us a sexual adventurer brought to

the word "mistress" is strictly misleading, since the relationship is unconsummated.

So is his marriage. The first scene of this rather chilling farce establishes that Molinoux does not sleep with his wife of six months; it also establishes that his philandering has no clear sexual object. The final gesture of the play, in which his young, innocent wife learns to demand that he go to bed with her, does not show us a sexual adventurer brought to

was as dull as any well-prepared account of *The Creation* can be. The chorus blazed finely in the last chorus but sounded uninspired by "The Heavens are Telling" or "Achieved is the glorious work" (the work was sung in German). Sheila Armstrong floated "With Vardure Clad" most delicately but often started her vocal line and did not touch the heart.

John Shirley-Quirk gave evidence of enjoying "Rolling in the Deep" but it really needs a deep bass voice. Robert Tear bravely sustained style and musicianship in the face of a dull atmosphere. No doubt Mr Francis was terrified by the sudden ascension, but it was a test of interpretative ability: he conducted efficiently, nursed the choir at the orchestra's expense (fatal in this work) and made the masterpiece appear humdrum all too often—a fatal sin.

In consequence his account of Mozart's K 467 piano concerto sounded harder and more percussive than he surely intended. There were still all his old merits of clear passage-work, persuasive Mozart phrasing and unobtrusive but purposeful decoration to admire.

Against that, his strings did not quite have the unanimity of bowing and articulation to justify a small-orchestra approach, nor was his speed for the third movement's Trio properly related to the Scherzo, seeming too deliberate. In the Haydn, coordination was much stronger for the funnier than the outer movements, the Andante being phrased with particular grace.

In a nod to the twentieth century, Honnegger's *Pastorale d'été* was included. It proved a feeble gesture, the composer never struggling out of the most bland and uneventful treatment of his material. It was neatly done, especially by the Philomusica's wind.

## De los Angeles to the rescue

Elisabeth Schwarzkopf has a virus infection and has been advised by her doctor to cancel the two recitals she was to have given last night and next Thursday as part of the Camden Music Festival, Victoria de los Angeles, who had extended her present tour of England so that she could attend Miss Schwarzkopf's first recital, agreed to deputise for her last night.

two stars, Louis Jourdan and Glynis Johns, whose languid partnership conspires to thin out the atmosphere so much that farce can hardly breathe. Mr Jourdan, an elegant, morning-suited Moricet, has taken the doctor's literary aspirations to heart; and what he presents is a charming, self-absorbed poetic dilettante, who seems to be pursuing Leontine more in the hope of screwing a sonnet out of her than with the aim of rhyming her into bed.

Miss Johns, likewise, reduces Leontine to a flunkey, little thing, who sits complacently watching her husband and signals her outrage at his treachery by sunbathing under a series of breathy "Oh's" followed by a nervous little run. Where is the arrogance, the energy, the implacable, all-consuming egoism which should activate Feydeau's characters? They are to be found only in the marginal performance of Margaret Floyds, in the role of a lapsed Countess, thrown out of the Schloss for trifling with a lion-tamer of lowly birth, and now functioning as voyeur-concierge to a dubious bachelor establishment.

With what time she has in the second act, Miss Courtney makes abundant amends for the lack of sensuality elsewhere: a bulky odalisque, zestfully dosing the love nest with Russian scent, and melting from a Wagnerian matron to an ecstatically assertive victim of the least touch of command. She certainly puts the bloodless Parisian amours into perspective.

Temperamental shortcomings apart, Feydeau's production is well moved, and has the courage to take some really prolonged pauses. There is above average support playing from John Raddley and David Spill, and a mechanically efficient set by Finlay James. All that is missing are the laughs.

heer! surprisingly, it affirms the English farce dictum that bed is not the bachelor's target, but the married woman's means of imposing sanctions.

Maxwell Shaw plays Molinoux and has directed the production; and while in better than partners he organizes some good laughs, in neither department does he observe that the deceptions are born out of the life-and-death need of the dapper to spread red herrings, and the dapper to gobble them up. It is no accident that the last great period of farce grew from a society desperately fighting the battle for Faith.

Without a strong pulse, the production feels rather slow, and only Fred Bryant, earnestly confident of his hold over wife and girl friends, has the secret of playing Feydeau as if he were Strindberg aiming for laughs.

Still, this is Theatre Workshop in better form than I have seen them for a long time.

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Alexander Solzhenitsyn: The greatest man alive, or a prophet who should be heard with caution?

## A prophecy of doom that will not necessarily come true

In the brilliant, if emotional, statement on television of his long-awaited conviction, Alexander Solzhenitsyn made two essential points—"the West" is virtually doomed, and, however that may be, "detente" in its relations with the Soviet Union is a dangerous illusion. Since Solzhenitsyn looks like, and, to judge from his works, undoubtedly is a major prophet, we should take these warnings seriously. But do we really have to accept everything he says?

"The West," he asserts, is now doomed because it has recently "abandoned four or five" countries—presumably Vietnam, Cambodia, Laos, Angola and (one imagines) Lebanon—and allowed them to be taken over by totalitarian forces. We must therefore concede that the United States should have continued to wage war in Indo-China until all national/communist forces were eliminated; have intervened physically in Angola and no doubt also in the Middle East; and have been supported by its loyal Nato allies, just as it was so supported a quarter of a century ago in Korea.

This thesis is not tenable. For many historical reasons the nationalist cause in these "emergent" countries, and in many others, is rightly or wrongly, associated with "anti-colonialism". If therefore "the West" tries to impose its will by physical means it will inevitably play into the hands of the "totalitarians", which is exactly what Solzhenitsyn wants to avoid. In his previous "worship" of the West, Solzhenitsyn was simply not aware of the extent to which the West's very philosophy of freedom obliged it to allow those lands forming part of vast empires to go their own way, even if it was not freedom which they chose as a result.

Is "detente", however, a dangerous illusion? It is surely true that nothing can change the nature of the Soviet regime save a major failure in foreign affairs or an internal collapse, both entirely unlikely. It is evident, also, as Solzhenitsyn says, that the regime is based on a war economy, everything being subordinated—as in Britain during the Second World War—to the production of arms and to the maximum efficiency of all the armed forces. When it is strong enough—and it may even now be strong enough—and if the West is further weakened by its own divisions and lack of confidence in its cause, this formidable regime may well try to "detente" wherever it can, but chiefly in western Europe, and even by "detente" means it absolutely necessary.

At this point, as the saga remarked, even if the whole of the Politburo were against war they might be obliged to wage

Solzhenitsyn was not aware of the extent to which the West's philosophy of freedom obliged it to allow parts of vast empires to go their own way

it owing to the simple logic of events. And it is entirely possible that such a war might be conducted with "conventional" weapons only and that the Soviet government might regret it, there is no doubt that on "detente" Solzhenitsyn is absolutely right.

What, then, should "the West" now do? Must we simply despair, as Solzhenitsyn seems to suggest, recommending ourselves, like the Russians, to a long period of barbarous oppression in which we can finally achieve our spiritual redemption only by thorough appalling sufferings? In other words should we agree with the justly repudiated assertion—though not by Bertrand Russell—that, on the whole, it is better to be Red than dead?

Not if, socially speaking, we get out of a permissive, self-centred and self-indulgent mentality which, rightly or wrongly, causes Solzhenitsyn so much anguish. Not if we can prepare a conventional defence in Europe only penetrable by the use of nuclear weapons on a first strike, a thing which even the Soviet Union would, in view of the comeback, hesitate to authorize. Not if we can somehow make it clear to the emergent and "anti-colonialist" states in Africa and elsewhere that it would be foolish to replace a vanished western domination by an infinitely more unpleasant foreign imperialism of a totalitarian type. Is all this possible? Of course it is.

In social matters, it looks, for instance, as if we are now slowly becoming conscious of the fact that all the advantages we have obtained since the welfare-state was established by the Labour Government after the war may vanish overnight if we cannot, by self-discipline, reorganize our production, become reasonably competitive, and take increasing advantage of our membership of the European Economic Community.

On defence we simply must, and I believe we now shall, get together, chiefly with the French and the Germans, to form an adequate "conventional" shield in western Europe, thus enabling the Americans to take the bulk of

their ground forces back to America and to concentrate, for their part, on securing the oceans and the "flanks". After all, the Russians, failing total nuclear superiority, will seek to avoid a nuclear exchange every bit as eagerly as the West will. In other words "better Red than dead" is a false dilemma. If we proceed on these lines we shall, as a nation, avoid either fate.

Finally, how best to get the bulk of the "emergent" countries on our side and thus disperse the famous Afro-Asian block? This is at once the most difficult and the most important of all our problems. In principle there is no reason why a new relationship with these nations should not be based on some extended Lomé Convention, assuring them reasonable and stable prices for their raw materials, even if this should result in some lowering of the standard of living of many of the ex-colonial powers.

And so, indeed, things might well develop were it not for one major obstacle—South Africa—which, for obvious reasons connected with the simple functioning of their industrial system, the ex-colonial powers can scarcely afford to break. And yet, for so long

as this connexion persists and apartheid is not substantially modified, many dictators in difficulty such as President Amin—will focus hatred on "the West" for its alleged support of the South African government thereby distracting attention from the misery of the populations on whom they impose their usually dreadful rule.

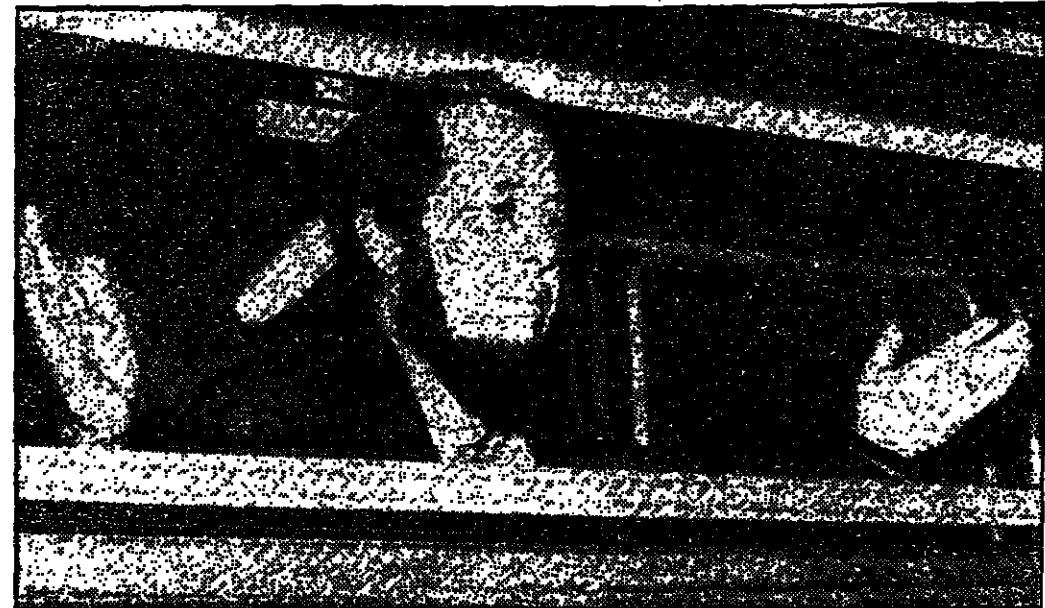
To some extent we may hope, however, that this problem may solve itself. As the threat of physical intervention grows, so we may expect the South African government to introduce reforms whereby the workers in its great mines and industries are more and more treated as the Germans treat their *Gastarbeiter*, thus enabling them to go back to their homes much enriched and hence in favour of some political relationship with their white neighbours to the south.

And in the Republic of South Africa itself, if only to keep the industrial machine functioning, it may be more and more in the Boer interest to encourage the emergence of some black and coloured middle-class which might eventually play its part in the conduct of a multifarious nation. All these are possibilities which leaders of black neighbouring states, insofar as they escape from Muscovite propaganda, might well foster. The worst is not certain, as the French rightly say.

To sum up, Solzhenitsyn's despairing cry is not necessarily justified, any more than was Spengler's previous prophecy of the "decline of the West". The giant who faces us, is indeed terrifying, but if—and it is a large "if"—we are prepared to face him collectively and wisely he will one day be seen to have feet of clay.

Lord Gladwyn

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## The people will listen, even if some of the pundits do not

Bernard Levin

the timid the brave, the small the big, the trivial the significant. Since Solzhenitsyn is strong, wise, great, brave, huge, significant and right, Lilliputian fear of Gulliver is thus many-faceted and therefore the more intense. And fear, in these circumstances, takes the form of nervous laughter, as is demonstrated twice nightly in a different context. The reason for the fear in the case of a man like Solzhenitsyn is that even as he speaks of external dangers he forces his hearers to look within themselves for the ultimate causes of those dangers, and since that truth is unbearable (like "also, most of all, the only defence available is the betterment of the man") the fear is the betterment of the man.

As a description of the whining, sniggering, piddling response by the very people whose like have made Solzhenitsyn's indictment of wickedness and folly so urgent, necessary and unanswerable, I cannot better that even with hindsight. (The response was epitomized, as you would expect, by the tittering of the editor of the *New Statesman*, whose only contribution was to complain that he had not been invited to meet Solzhenitsyn, and to rebuke the Russian colossus for this act of impiety by sneering at him as "Spengler Mark 2". Depend upon it, we shall yet see the *New Statesman* carry an article by Mr. David Murray explaining that Dr. Sakharov is much overrated as a scientist.)

The note that has run through so much of the public comment on Solzhenitsyn's philippic has been one of fear. The phenomenon is entirely understandable; the spiritually weak always fear the spiritually strong, as the foolish fear the wise, the petty the great.

truth—the truth being that there is a difference between right and wrong.

It is, of course, that response that has for so long been stifled by the bloodless *jaanisms* by which occupy so large a number of the tin thrones of public comment. They are the *jaanisms* who have built the dam across the feelings of people better than themselves, until they have made feelings themselves suspect. (I have lost count of the number of times that some cringing idiot in charge of a television or radio discussion has expressed myself passionately on such matters as liberty and tyranny has deflected the embarrassment he feels—though I have yet to find the audience sharing the embarrassment—by saying with the special malice of a man who has been told that he is "wrong" on the subject.) And the giggling with which the beavers have greeted Solzhenitsyn's appearance indicates that they are uneasily aware of the sound of the dam cracking.

Wherever I have gone in the past fortnight I have found the human feelings of humanity pouring through every crack. People of all sorts and conditions have been speaking of the effect Solzhenitsyn had on them, and adding that wherever they have gone they have found the same reaction.

I have never known so many people to speak of finding tears in their eyes as part of their response to the words and personality of a single individual who was, after all, doing nothing more dramatic than answer an interviewer's questions. And remember that because of the conditions of secrecy in which the interview was filmed there was no publicity until the last minute (the *Radio Times* for instance, had only a general note about *Panorama*, with no hint of what the content of this particular edition was to be). It is very good indeed to know that the BBC has already committed itself to repeating the programme in its entirety within the next month or so; this time, I am sure that the audience will be very much larger, and the response more overwhelming still. (The BBC's decision is particularly welcome in view of the fact that it has not always been willing to resist Soviet pressure, and that the official Soviet protest in France at the showing there of another programme about Solzhenitsyn has been followed by an unofficial one here, which will obviously be repeated in the hope of making the BBC lose its nerve and cancel the second showing.)

Of course, it is perfectly possible that the BBC will be forced to cancel the second showing. But the BBC's decision to repeat the programme is a very good indeed to know that the BBC has already committed itself to repeating the programme in its entirety within the next month or so; this time, I am sure that the audience will be very much larger, and the response more overwhelming still. (The BBC's decision is particularly welcome in view of the fact that it has not always been willing to resist Soviet pressure, and that the official Soviet protest in France at the showing there of another programme about Solzhenitsyn has been followed by an unofficial one here, which will obviously be repeated in the hope of making the BBC lose its nerve and cancel the second showing.)

## For all the sabre rattling, peace is still possible over the Aegean

What happens at the third United Nations conference on the law of the sea, which began in New York this week, may well determine whether Greece and Turkey will make war or peace in the Aegean.

Turkey is pursuing two objectives: First, she wants to stop Greece from extending her territorial waters from the present six-mile limit to 12 miles, on the ground that this would practically turn the Aegean into a Greek lake.

Secondly, she claims economic jurisdiction over the eastern half of the Aegean seabed, said to be rich in oil deposits, arguing that the Greek islands are mere "protrusions on the natural extension of the Asian continent", and as such are not entitled to a share of the shelf or its resources.

Both claims are in conflict with the prevailing trends at the New York conference and existing conventions. The conference, in fact, is certain

to sanction an extension of the territorial waters up to 12 miles as a universal rule, while the Geneva Convention on the continental shelf of 1958 stipulates that islands are entitled to continental shelf rights.

The Turks insist that the Aegean is a special case. They have sent to New York a high-powered delegation to try to amend the conference draft and obtain recognition for their theory that the Aegean cannot be sorted out by bilateral talks, not in international forums.

What if they fail? The Turkish leaders have already stated plainly that in that case Turkey would refuse to recognize the decisions of the conference. Mr. Suleyman Demirel, the Turkish Prime Minister, declared: "No one can take away our rights at international conferences. No one can deprive Turkey of her rights if she is strong. There is no need for anxiety. We did not obtain these rights from international conferences."

"The trouble with the Turks," one Greek minister told me, "is that they always say what they demand, never what they are willing to give. Without give-and-take there can be no real negotiation. What they really want is, 'If you don't give us what we want, we'll take it by force'."

The Greek position is that at present Greece has no intention to extend her territorial waters from six to 12 miles but will not relinquish her sovereign right to do so when she pleases. On the continental shelf issue, the Greek Government proposed to Turkey to refer jointly the dispute to the International Court at the Hague. The previous Turkish Government agreed, but the present one, yielding to opposition pressure, has had second thoughts and insisted on bilateral talks to settle the dispute.

In view of the New York conference, Turkey is trying to underline her physical presence in the Aegean by staging

'The trouble with the Turks, a Greek minister said, is that they always say what they demand, never what they are willing to give'

repeated naval and air exercises in international waters. The Turkish Minister of Power has also announced that a Turkish seismicograph ship would be in the Aegean late in May for surveys related to offshore oil exploration.

Turkey has warned Greece that any extension of territorial waters would be considered as

proclaim that we regard this action null and void and that our warships and planes will continue to use the Aegean as before."

Greece could easily allay these misgivings by guaranteeing free passage for all ships through the straits created in the Aegean by the extension of the limit. The real threat to Turkey, however, is that such a move would alienate her from her seabed claims, since the continental shelf begins where the territorial waters end, by erecting a veritable wall of Greek sovereignty between Turkey and the Aegean.

Just as the Turks cannot forgive themselves for losing those islands to the Greeks, the Greeks cannot envisage a sharing of the Aegean which, apart from its historic and pre-historic associations for them, they had controlled exclusively since Turkey's last naval defeat by the Greeks in 1913.

The Greek leaders are becoming discouraged by the lack of flexibility on the part of Turkey

on all fronts—Aegean and Cyprus. They are now convinced that Ankara has no intention to settle peacefully, but might even try to back these claims by unilateral action.

They have, therefore, decided to reinforce the country's defences in order to discourage any attempt to challenge Greek sovereignty at the next Turkish manoeuvres (coinciding with the anniversary of Greek independence from the Turks on March 25), but above all to redress the balance of power which had perennially been to Greece's diplomatic disadvantage.

For all this sabre-rattling, however, the elements for an amicable settlement are there. Obscured by the current confrontation in New York, the Turks, for instance, intimate that they would willingly trade off some of their continental shelf claims against a Greek pledge on the territorial waters. They have also proposed to the Greeks a plan for joint economic ventures in the Aegean

based on a rate of interest in case of a strike.

The Greek rocks which cannot reach islands or advantages, appreciate it when a country has of its decision.

Even more one senior said: "The realization of the elements for an amicable settlement are there. Obscured by the current confrontation in New York, the Turks, for instance, intimate that they would willingly trade off some of their continental shelf claims against a Greek pledge on the territorial waters. They have also proposed to the Greeks a plan for joint economic ventures in the Aegean

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## The Times Diary

Lord Wigg's surprising selection

and Bevan, and now it is Foot and Jack Jones.

Healey: "One person who could conceivably do it, although basically he thinks like a Marxist and is an economic determinist." "The sort of person who should lead the Labour Party," Wigg says, "is Jack Jones. That is who I would choose. There you have a man with the strength of character, the honesty of purpose and the essential provincial values which place him in the radical tradition in which the British people in their moments of greatness have always found expression."

Wigg does not expect Jones to be drafted in the way that Alec Douglas-Home was by the Conservatives, however. "Harold Wilson has led the party up to the wall at the end of a cul-de-sac. At the moment I think most of them want a Father Christmas. I think they will go for the soft option. If they do, of course, it means we have had it."

Elitism

If James Callaghan becomes Prime Minister, he will be the first since Churchill to break the Oxford stranglehold on the post. Anthony Eden and Sir

Alec Douglas-Home were at Christ Church, Harold Macmillan and Edward Heath at Balliol, and Harold Wilson at Jesus. Clement Attlee was also an Oxford man.

The paradox is that Oxford's grip has strengthened as egalitarianism has notionally increased. Earlier this century only Lord Salisbury and Asquith were Oxford Prime Ministers. Lloyd George, Bonar Law and Ramsay MacDonald were like Callaghan in that they suffered no higher education.

If any of Callaghan's rivals were to be drafted, however, the Oxford tradition will be maintained. Roy Jenkins and Denis Healey are Balliol men. Anthony Crosland was at Trinity. Michael Foot at Wadham and Tony Benn at New College.

Heartfelt

Christian Barnard, the South African heart surgeon, flew from Rome by Concorde and stopped over at Claridge's to talk about his novel. It is a book about a bad-tempered but brilliant heart surgeon beset by pressures and political intrigues. "That is me of course," he said, "but I wanted to bring into the story things that mattered to me,

that I wanted to vent my feelings on."

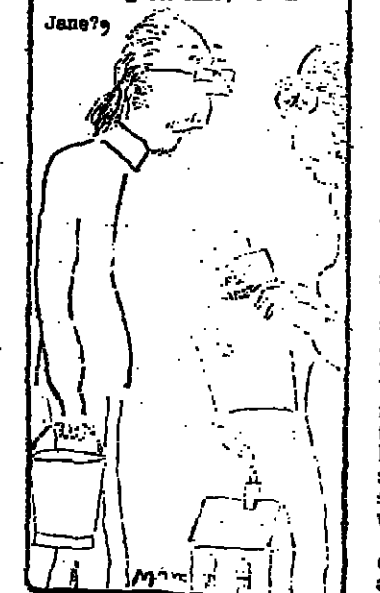
The book's hero brushes frequently with apartheid, as Barnard himself has done. "You simply cannot arrange that white people will be sick one week and black the next," he says. "South Africans see ghosts, and I think the whole world is going to explode if you have anything to do with somebody who is born with black skin. Yes, I have never had any complaints from Nationalists when they find their children being treated in beds next to black babies. They frequently take an interest in the black children, and bring them presents."

Barnard's social apartheid is doomed in South Africa to "very rapid disappearance". Political apartheid, though, he thinks should remain. "The terrors there are real. We have seen in the rest of Africa what happens to minority groups when political control passes."

Turbot's off

One of London's historic restaurants closed its doors for the last time yesterday amid a welter of emotional handshakes and a positive orgy of turbot soufflé. After 41 years in St. James's Street, opposite Lobb the Bootmaker and under a large sign proclaiming "Turbot Soufflé", the restaurant has succumbed to falling trade and the advancing years of its distinguished proprietor.

What do you read, we're in the wrong commune, Sarah Jane?



restaurants in Paris, is now 73. In spite of a recent cataract operation she put in a farewell appearance during the lunchtime rush yesterday, moving round the bright yellow tablecloths to bid adieu. "I was last here a year ago," said a diner in a spotted bow tie. "I had to come today because I had to see you. I never be able to enjoy turbot soufflé?"

Polish. "I can see the streets in a with a pillow shall have a service over in the moral all cry."

Prunier's in class of patrol Duke of Windsor. Simpson that man left his table, and looked in a famous turbot with a fork spoon.

When Man announced his September, the restaurant was Wheeler, but no nothing. But the site is not hope they do some kind of said a regular with every bit. Out of the corner premises are heavily substantial pill door. That as surrounded the turbot soufflé.

In particular, from a 12-year-old had received a from a computer. "The 100-Heures in tell me that they received a computer the North Sea. The type and the Mr. Times New. Earnings: "De papers."





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## THE CONTEXT OF THE CHOICE

Before the Labour Party can decide who ought to be their next leader, they will need to consider the situation which that leader will face. The immediate position is not altogether a bad one: the rate of inflation has been brought down; the economic cycle has reached the early stages of recovery; there is a fair prospect of trade union support for a second stage of incomes policy; the relatively stable economic policies of the last year are accepted in the party. The Government can fairly claim that some progress has been and is being made.

Yet the position of the Government is very restricted; it is compared to that of a typhoon under siege. Inside the typhoon things are going reasonably well; supplies have not run out and discipline has been sufficiently maintained. Outside the typhoon there is a formidable array of siege works and the prospects for breaking out do not look good.

### Early election prospect

The first, though not the most important constraint, is electoral. The Government have a nominal majority of one in the present House of Commons, but have an actual majority of between ten and twenty on most issues and, therefore, expect to be able to avoid an election almost indefinitely. On the other hand, an early election would almost certainly lead to the Government's defeat. The Labour Party might be returned as the largest party in the new House of Commons, it could hardly hope to hold its present lead.

The chief difficulty is that the situation of the two most important minor parties has changed since the last election in a way mapping to Labour: the Scottish Nationalists are stronger, the Liberals are weaker. The Scottish Nationalist Party would certainly be expected to take a number of Labour seats in Scotland, possibly about fifteen. On evidence of recent by-elections the Liberals would be able to lose some of their English seats to the Conservatives and the fall in the Liberal vote in some Labour marginals might also transfer some Labour seats to the Conservatives, even the Labour vote were fully retained.

The Liberals have rightly sided (the flabbergasted Mr. Heath dissenting) to put off a leadership election until the autumn. Yet their present weakness is not caused by Mr. Heath's difficulties, but by the broader political trends. The protest vote which goes general under Conservative governments goes Conservative under Labour Governments. In an autumn Mr. Heath may find it hard to be re-elected; if so everyone will be delighted that the unproved legions of a blackmailer have destroyed a valuable career. Neither he nor anyone else will find it easy to make the Liberal Party look immediately relevant to the deep-seated crisis of the British economy.

If the ratio of support between Conservative and Labour rises did not otherwise change, all changes in support for the other parties could well reduce

Labour membership of the House of Commons below three hundred, and increase the Conservative representation by at least a few seats. Yet the ratio between the Labour and Conservative parties is more likely to move in favour of the Conservatives. It is almost impossible for a government to avoid loss of popularity in a period of such economic difficulties. The October, 1974 election result was, in any case, the best result for Labour and the worst result for the Conservatives since the War, apart from the last Labour victories of 1945 and 1966. It could not be easy for Labour to improve on that.

The most likely result of an early election would be that there would be no overall majority; the Scottish Nationalist Party, which holds the balance of power, would be in a coalition with the Labour Party. There is no obvious reason to expect this prospect to change in favour of the Labour Party. The new leader, whoever he is, will therefore suffer from the very important constraint that he cannot go to the country at an early date without the probable loss of office, and must look forward to the probability of a hung Parliament resulting whenever he does choose to go to the country.

The economic constraints are even more serious. Although the inflation rate has been brought down, it is still at a dangerously high level; it is still more than double that of the United States, which can be regarded as setting a standard in world competition. The balance of payments deficit has improved, but is still alarmingly high; this is the most favourable moment in the trade cycle for Britain's balance of payments. The weakness of sterling persists; that could help exports but will be bad for our import costs and could make it more difficult to bring the inflation rate down further.

The Budget deficit will still come out above the £10,000m mark and probably quite well above it: if one takes our Budget deficit of £20 billion and that of the United States at \$60 billion, we are running a deficit one-third of that of the United States on less than a quarter of the population of the United States and about an eighth of the national income of the United States. Yet the American budget deficit is itself regarded as a cause of inflation and a matter for anxiety.

### Budget deficit impact

The Budget deficit is very important, not only in its effects, but because it follows from two other constraints. The Labour Party in Britain, like the Democrats in the United States, has achieved power by being the party of the people. Its essential appeal has not been nationalization, which has always been rather unpopular, but its greater eagerness to tax the minority and spend the money on social services for the majority. That is the essential engine of Labour power which can be summed up in the celebrated words of President Roosevelt's aide, Mr. Harry Hopkins: "We'll tax and we'll spend; we'll tax and we'll spend; and we'll elect and elect and elect." When a spending party reaches the limits

of taxing and spending, it may find electing difficult as well.

That process does now seem in Britain to have reached its natural limits. Inflation has brought progressive taxation into the lives of the average wage earner. There is no realistic possibility of an increase in the direct taxation on personal earnings; investment income is already taxed up to 98 per cent; company liquidity has been eroded by inflation; that higher company taxation would lead to higher unemployment and cuts in investment; capital gains and capital transfers are taxed very heavily; increases in indirect taxation are possible, but would only increase the demand for compensating rises in wages. The taxing capacity is stretched to the limit.

Yet most government expenditure either consists of payments such as pensions or benefits to those out of work, both of which are bound to be increased by inflation, or means the labour costs of government and local government, which also have to follow inflation. Like other labour-intensive businesses, inflation hits government hard. Although something could be done to reduce waste, particularly the bureaucratic overhead and overmanning in public industry, cuts in government spending require cuts in cherished programmes. To save as much money as possible with as little damage to social services as possible calls for great skill and sensitivity.

### Few options open

Any government—as Mr. Heath already knows—is going to find that the most difficult job is to bring back expenditure to the level that taxation can support; unless that can be done a stable economy with a lower rate of inflation, relatively low unemployment and a sound balance of payments cannot possibly be achieved. Yet, to put it mildly, these policies will strain the unity of the Labour Party under any leader.

There are also social constraints on the successful conduct of a Labour government: in a period of economic expansion, social antagonism tends to decline; all classes feel that they are improving their own standard of living, and do not resent the fact that other classes are doing so as well. In a period when there is no expansion, or some contraction, the prosperity of one class is inevitably viewed with jealousy by those who are losing theirs.

The new leader will, therefore, inherit a situation which offers him few options unless he can create them for himself by his own powers of public persuasion, political skill and personal character. The new leader may well find it too difficult to continue the present policy for the next fifteen months, that is to say, until the end of the second stage of the incomes policy. (All incomes policies tend to fail in their third stage.) Yet it must be very difficult for him to develop longer term policies, either on abolition or on the economy which will redeem the Labour Party from the obvious threats of economic disaster and electoral defeat. The new leader will have to decide whether to settle down as captain of the garrison, or whether to try to break the siege.

## NOTHER ISSUE OF FREEDOM IN SPAIN

The Spanish Government is now wondering whether to allow the Americans to continue using powerful transmitters on the Costa Brava to carry Radio Liberty broadcasts to the Soviet Union. The current agreement is out on Monday but the broadcasts will continue for the time being. Negotiations started a week but have been temporarily suspended, probably because the Spanish Government has not had time to give the matter its full attention.

Meanwhile pressure to deny the Spanish Government facilities in Spain has been coming from the Americans, with whom the Spanish Government is now anxious to cement its diplomatic relations. The Americans have been suggesting that relations will suffer in some way if the broadcasts continue in Spanish soil. The Spanish Government appears to be unwilling to appear to be unilaterally aligning itself with the Soviet Union on this issue because it regards Radio Liberty as an arm of the CIA. Finally, the connexion was mended some time ago, presumably the left either do not believe this or see the difference between the CIA and other arms of American influence.

It would be a serious matter if the Spanish Government were to give in to these pressures. The first place it would be convenient and expensive.

The transmitters are where they are because it is an ideal spot from which to broadcast by short wave to the Soviet Union. To move them elsewhere would cost a lot of time and money. Moreover Spain is playing host only to some hardware and a few technicians, not to a full radio station. The main studios and editorial offices are in Munich, and the programmes go from there to Spain by land line.

Secondly, it is absolutely unnecessary to give in to Russian pressures in order to have normal relations. The Russians try for anything they can get when they engage in negotiations, and it is obvious that they will try to disrupt Radio Liberty if they see an opening (they already jam its broadcasts). They have jammed constantly the West German Government about the headquarters in Munich, and at one time they even dropped hints that they might reconsider their participation in the Munich Olympics. But when they meet a firm response they get on with normal diplomatic business. There is no evidence that German relations with the Soviet Union have suffered to any noticeable extent from the presence in Munich of Radio Liberty and Radio Free Europe (the twin station which broadcasts to eastern Europe). Spain would not suffer either.

Thirdly, the Spanish Government would be doing a disservice to its own reputation and

to the values of western democracy if it gave in to the Russians. Radio Liberty and Radio Free Europe provide services which are in great demand among the peoples of the Soviet Union and eastern Europe. As the Radio Liberty policy manual says, the aim is "to equip Soviet citizens with objective information on which to base their own participation in the process of change from within and to make available all that information which is indispensable to the growth of sound, constructive public opinion." Radio Liberty demonstrates its belief that all men have an inherent right to search for truth and that dialogue... creates understanding and defuses hostility. Even the Spanish left should be able to agree with this.

Of course the Soviet regime objects strongly to attempts to infringe its monopoly of information. It has recently been mounting a very intense campaign against Radio Liberty, perhaps because of the number of distinguished recent émigrés who have been taking part in its programmes. But Soviet leaders constantly declare that détente involves no obligation to cease ideological struggle. Western countries should take them at their word. It would be sad and ironic if the Spanish Government should now contribute to denying to the Soviet people the very same rights which it is slowly granting to the Spanish people.

## Road plans: rights of objectors

From Mr Barry Payton

Sir, There must be no possible misunderstanding of the effect of the Court of Appeal's judgment in "ex parte Ostler" in your Law Report today (March 18).

If an authority promoting or confirming a compulsory purchase order commits any act of fraud, bad faith or causes the citizen to suffer any breach of natural justice, however serious, no remedy is possible in the courts to preserve the property if the authority is able to hide the fraud for six weeks.

I do not suggest that the Court of Appeal decision is wrong in law. Indeed, appearing for Mr Ostler, I detected that their lordships showed anxiety and sympathy for his position. Parliament must now consider urgently whether sufficient protection is provided by the law for trunk road orders and compulsory purchase.

Barry Payton, Gray's Inn Square, WC1.

### The British Library

From Mrs Barbara Godlee

Sir, Not long ago, whilst praising Pannier's circular Reading Room, I was faced with a much greater problem in setting up an inquiry system which will be more expensive than the present one and suffer much more delay.

Yours faithfully, BARBARA GODLEE, Gray's Inn Square, WC1.

From Mr A. T. Cropper  
Sir, Based on my experience of long nights spent cross-examining the should be no problem as to the choice of the next Prime Minister. A Benn or Foot would lead to Labour's annihilation at the next election. Callaghan or Healey would perpetuate the current indecision. If they would really like to be in power for the next ten years, the Labour Party should choose Roy Jenkins. The

From Mr Philip Noel-Baker and others  
Sir, May we clear up the misunderstanding about the York Inter-Continental Disarmament Forum in Lord Chalfont's article on Russian armaments (March 15). The origin of the forum was a conference of 86 national and international non-governmental organizations held in the United Nations building, Palais des Nations, in Geneva, in September, 1972. One of the 86 was the World Peace Council, which is financed by contributions from the Communist parties of the countries of the world. There were a few other Communist-controlled organizations whose help we welcomed, since disarmament cannot be fruitfully discussed without "the other side". The conference carried through a searching examination of the facts, the dangers and the wastes of the arms race, as it then was.

The conference decided on a "follow-up" campaign in November 1973. The World Peace Council organized, financed and controlled the so-called World Congress of Peace Forces, in which, however, many other organizations, notably the World Federation of United Nations Associations, played an important part. During this congress, a non-Communist British delegate, Mr Arthur Booth, proposed the creation of a "round-table" conference. This was agreed to, and Mr Booth was made chairman.

This Committee decided to hold the York Forum on March 29 to April 1, 1976. Mr Booth as chairman of the British organizing committee, when he fell ill, his place was filled by the Director of the British United Nations Association. The forum, like the Geneva Conference in 1972, was sponsored by scores of NGOs, including the World Peace Council. In February,

### Car racing on television

From Mr Alasdair Milne

Sir, In his letter (March 17) about our decision to cancel television coverage of last Sunday's racing at Brands Hatch, Mr. Anthony Dilks misrepresents the BBC's position.

We are confronted daily by the problems that arise from increased sponsorship of sport, whilst fully appreciating many sports would now find existence without sponsorships impossible. In this case, however, the occasional glimpse of a symbol on a fast moving car, totally fails to describe the reality—a racing car covered with large advertisements, held in the centre of the screen as the moving centre of the action, and so becoming almost a mobile advertising board. That is why we asked the RAC to discuss reducing the prominence of the advertising displays on individual motor cars, and these discussions continue.

## Choosing Mr Wilson's successor

From Professor J. A. Rex

Sir, Since the parliamentary Labour Party is selecting not simply a leader of the party but a Prime Minister, perhaps those outside parliamentary politics might be permitted to comment. Indeed it is essential that they should since all the early comment from the Labour parliamentarians is that Callaghan is the "front-runner" because he is the only one who is not a Conservative. Surely there are other considerations. Should not the question be one of competence and integrity?

In fact the striking thing about Mr Callaghan over the years has been his failure in both domestic and international affairs and his sure-footed capacity to offend against liberal principles. It was Mr Callaghan who delayed British economic recovery by his stubborn refusal to devolve the pound, and his ineffectiveness in such international matters as the Cyprus civil war or the ending of white supremacy in Southern Africa is apparent to all but the most incurious-minded. And Mr Callaghan it was who invented a two-tier system of rights for British citizens during the East African Asian fiasco.

By comparison two Labour leaders stand out both as successful and as men whose virtues transcend those associated with party loyalty. Mr Roy Jenkins did get the country out of the financial mess that Mr Callaghan left it in and Mr Foot was one of the principal guarantors of the incomes policy which enabled us to bring inflation under control. Mr Jenkins has stuck to his guns whatever the effect on his popularity on such issues as immigration, Europe, and the protection of freedom of speech at the grass roots of the party, and Mr Foot has been the outstanding parliamentarian of our time, always alive to questions of political freedom.

By all means let the Labour Party make its choice between Left and Right—Jenkins-Foot contest would give them the choice—but God save us all from having to choose between those who are for and against the Tribune group!

Yours faithfully, JOHN REX, 33 Arlington Avenue, Leamington Spa.

### A credible defence policy

From Mr Michael Stewart, CH, Labour MP for Fulham

Sir, Lord Gladwyn (Letters March 17) cannot seriously believe that the idea of more credible and cheaper defence does not appeal to me. What I do believe is that Lord Gladwyn's approach to the problem in the European Parliament is misconceived. I am confirmed in this view by the comments in the Parliament, on March 10, of the representative of the Council.

Yours, etc, MICHAEL STEWART, House of Commons.

From Mr Philip Noel-Baker and others  
Sir, May we clear up the misunderstanding about the York Inter-Continental Disarmament Forum in Lord Chalfont's article on Russian armaments (March 15). The origin of the forum was a conference of 86 national and international non-governmental organizations held in the United Nations building, Palais des Nations, in Geneva, in September, 1972. One of the 86 was the World Peace Council, which is financed by contributions from the Communist parties of the countries of the world. There were a few other Communist-controlled organizations whose help we welcomed, since disarmament cannot be fruitfully discussed without "the other side". The conference carried through a searching examination of the facts, the dangers and the wastes of the arms race, as it then was.

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### Journalists' closed shop

From Mr Anthony Gidlin

Sir, For the record might I take to task Mr Jack Brown (letter, March 13) for his remarks which formed part of his contribution to the debate on the journalists' closed shop issue?

He has no doubt on my integrity by innuendo, but more hurtful and inexcusable is his childish taunt that "to talk of freedom of the press in context of the track record of the family owned and anti-Labour *Barnsley Chronicle* is the highest form of hysteria". etc. Our readers will be able to evaluate the substance or otherwise of his statement, but this former Trades Council official is really guilty of abusing the freedom of

the candidates is an advantage, but his across the board support amongst Labour, Liberal and even Conservative voters must surely clinch his selection. Mind you, the Labour Party has a habit of avoiding the obvious!

Yours faithfully, A. T. CROPPER, 2 Willes Road, NW5, March 17.

From Mr Brian Masters  
Sir, Will any journalist or newspaper editor now offer public apology for having consistently given the impression that Mr Harold Wilson was a prey to ambition and would cling to power until the moon turned green? Or do they not feel obliged to account for such fundamental errors of assessment which have seriously misled their readers?

Yours faithfully, BRIAN MASTERS, 47 Calhoun Road, W14, March 17.

From Councillor Bernard Kissen  
Sir, The sudden departure of Harold Wilson and the election of a future leader and Prime Minister in some haste will surely not be of benefit in the long term to the Labour Party unless the party resolves that next time "your" decisions changes must take place in procedure.

The Labour Party conference should consider changing the rules of election in that the constituency parties, Labour peers and Labour parliamentary candidates should be consulted before nominations are called for. This would enable the parliamentary Labour Party to gauge feeling within the party more generally. In addition the NEC of the Labour Party should have a vote in the actual election as they have the most important role within the party in ensuring that conference decisions are not lightly departed from.

It is vital that this time as well as on future occasions a Labour leader must be chosen who will have special regard to conference decisions. He or she must be seen to be guided by them and not purely guided through the motions of accepting them. This I regret has been Harold Wilson's weakness although his strength has lain in other fields. A Labour leader is in a different position to other leaders in his special relationship with the party NEC as well as the MPs and the schism which often exists between both bodies. Therefore the National Executive members should have an equal part in his or her election.

Yours faithfully, BERNARD KISSEN, Chairman Labour Parliamentary Association of Candidates, 71a The Broadway, Crickehowe, NW2, March 18.

however, following serious trouble over the grant of visas by the British Government to delegates from the East, the World Peace Council withdrew its sponsorship. Contrary to Lord Chalfont's assertions, therefore, the forum is now under exclusive British management and control; all the money has been raised from non-Communist sources in Britain. The chairman of the forum is Lord Gardiner, Lord Chancellor from 1964-70; among the speakers are the present Chairman of the TUC, Cyril Plant, Dr Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan (India), the director of the International Co-operative Alliance, which has 331 million paying members in 140 countries, leading churchmen, the director of SIPRI, and armaments experts from many countries.

Lord Chalfont says: "It is too much to hope that the Nato study on surprise attack will be tabled at York; or that if it were the assembled delegates would take much notice of it." In fact, we have heard every report that the hundreds of copies of the Nato report required to give one to every participant.

It was always open to Lord Chalfont to join the conference, either as an individual, or as a delegate of any NGO or party interested in armaments to which he happened to belong. We have now invited him, indeed urged him to come and take part in the debates with Lord Gardiner, the director of SIPRI, etc. If he refuses, your readers will know what conclusion to draw. But we shall certainly find some other advocate of increased armaments to take his place.

May we add that the rest of Lord Chalfont's article not devoted to misinformed remarks on the York Forum, seems to us strongly to support the view that it is the modern armaments which create the dangers against which they are supposed to guard, and that, as Mr Duncan Sandys said when he was Conservative Minister of Defence, "there will be no safety for any nation until there is world disarmament".

Yours, etc, PHILIP NOEL-BAKER, President, British Organising Committee, York Forum.

BRUCE LEWIS, Pax Christi, FRANK FIELD, Director, TNA Association. VERDUN PERL, Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, 84 Kingsway, WC2, March 17.

## Parents' place in education

From Mr D. Lavelle

Sir, The Headmaster of Hulme Grammar School (letter, March 13) must not go unchallenged when he blandly equates the direct grant system with a "structured, disciplined academic education for able children" and equally blandly implies that the maintained system does not provide "an education appropriate to one's ability and aptitude".

As a teacher with some experience of both systems I have seen nothing so far in the staffing and structure of either system which would, per se, seem to be responsible for the undoubted disparity of academic standards between the better direct grant schools and the comprehensives "operating in difficult circumstances". Many teachers believe that by far the biggest single factor which determines the ability of any student to fulfil himself adequately is his home background and the motivation and involvement of his parents (not necessarily related to income). All that the direct grant schools have achieved over many years is the successful concentration of such valuable parental support into a few scattered establishments, thereby effectively depriving the remaining schools of just that very commodity they so desperately lack.

For a comprehensive system to work at all well it must have a fully comprehensive commitment of pupils and of parents, and just as long as the direct grant schools continue to recruit from only the most involved sector of the community then so long also will the myth of a superior system exist.

Yours faithfully, D. LAVELLE, Head of Mathematics/Senior Teacher, St John Rigby RC Sixth Form College, Orrell, Wigan, Lancashire, March 13.

### Running National Parks

From Mr Martin Brannan

Sir, As chairman of the Policy and Resources Committee of the County Council and also chairman of Finance on the Lake District Planning Board, I would like the opportunity of replying to Lieutenant-Colonel Haythornthwaite who writes on the administration of the National Parks (Letters, March 16).

Of the 10 parks, eight are administered by committees of the county councils in whose area they lie. The Peak District Park overflows into a number of counties and a case can be adduced for having a purpose-built authority to administer the entire park falls within the county of Cumbria, no such consideration arises. I accept that a third of the membership of the body is nominated by the Minister and this is no bad thing. Of the elected members, I accept that they are appointed for the duration. Nevertheless one would expect that county members, once appointed, would endeavour to combine the interests both of the National Park and also the county in which it lies. The simple remedy for those who step out of line, in major matters, is to ensure that they are not reappointed.

My concern is over expenditure. Nationally we are in a situation of cash stringency. When I met the minister responsible last year, I asked him to ensure that the National Park supplementary grant was not out of step with the rate support grant. However, the grant in the Lake District Park was very considerably increased. Since my concern is to ensure that the supplementary grant, it meant that the figure was considerably in excess of the permitted expenditure for the county committees on a proportionate basis. And this is a standstill position. My endeavour to "freeze" part of the grant and not to add a county contribution to it though passed by the Finance Committee was overturned by the Minister. And this in a standstill position. My endeavour to "freeze" part of the grant and not to add a county contribution to it though passed by the Finance Committee was overturned by the Minister. And this in a standstill position.

Nominated members, though in a minority, carry weight and influence beyond their numbers by virtue of their dedication to their cause and often tend to lose sight of our national plight. One senses too that at board meetings, the elected members are playing very much of an away match. Were the park administered by a county council committee, as the majority are, even with the nominated members present, one would be very much on one's home ground where, I believe, a greater sense of realism exists.

Cumbria is a well run county, the second largest in area in England and with an annual budget of £100m. I can see no valid reason why it could not take the National Park administration in its stride with the avoidance of duplication and greater efficiency. It would give the members of the county council a greater sense of involvement with what is a national heritage.

May I say that I have nothing but admiration for the work of the board over the past 20 years and more. I know how much has been done to preserve and enhance the Lake District but I believe that in the enlarged county equally good work could be continued by a county committee.

Yours faithfully, MARTIN BRANNAN, Lacey Acre, Fortinsdale, Kendal, Cumbria, March 17.

### 'Dear Reverend'

From the Reverend F. P. Coleman

Sir, Reverence to whom reference is due. The morning's post recently included a letter addressed to "The Reverend St Andrew-by-the-Wardrobe".

Yours truly, F. P. COLEMAN, Rector, St Andrew-by-the-Wardrobe, with St Andrew's administration in its stride with the avoidance of duplication and greater efficiency. It would give the members of the county council a greater sense of involvement with what is a national heritage.

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## Italy hoists bank rate by 4pc and increases tax on petrol and cars

Added: "I haven't looked at the books yet."

Sir Charles, an advocate of worker participation, stressed that nothing could be achieved without the cooperation of the workers. He hoped for an early meeting with Mr Bill Sirs, general secretary of the Iron and Steel Federation.

Paul Rountree, Labour Editor writes: Steel union leaders are to have early talks with Sir Charles. Mr Sirs said last night the unions looked forward to a meeting with Sir Charles, the new chairman, than the strained contacts with Sir Monty.

"We believe that Sir Charles is a man who will look forward to a meeting with the unions, to democracy, and the development of good relations with the unions and the workforce as a whole," he added.

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# misleading petrol prices

By Roger Viehroye  
Energy Correspondent

Threequarters of cut-price petrol stations surveyed by the Motor Industry Consumer Committee were displaying misleading advertising, the National Consumer Council said yesterday.

The findings confirm criticisms of petrol station advertising by Mr Alan Williams, Minister of State for Prices and Consumer Protection, at a hearing of oil companies' trade associations and the Office of Fair Trading last month.

After considering the minister's contention that all motorists should be able to see from the road the price they will have to pay for petrol, the oil companies put their own proposals for ending advertising restrictions before the Office of Fair Trading yesterday.

Signor Carlo Donat Cattin, Industry Minister, said the new taxes were expected to raise about 1,100,000 lire, of which 780,000 lire would come from the fuel taxes.

He was not enthusiastic about the package. He feared that two sectors, cars and tourism, would be most hurt and "there is a danger that the Italian economy becoming involved".

But said the taxes would cut its sales by 20 per cent this year and could lead to long-term damage. He said the government was not taking other measures to spur an overall recovery.

It had been widely expected that there would be curbs on motorist advertising but that would have hampered more directly trade with EEC partners, a move that would have violated the spirit of the letter of understanding signed to get a \$1,000m (about £300m) loan guaranteed by the Community.

In Brussels, the European Commission today fully approved the Italian austerity plan.—AP-Dow Jones.

Despite the apparent urgency for ending misleading advertising which has blossomed with the price war, the meeting was unable to produce an immediate solution to the problem. Another meeting has been set for April 5, and a code to govern foreclosed advertising may come from this.

The oil companies pointed out they have no direct control of the way their tenants and dealers use advertising, and can only offer advice.

This argument seems to have been accepted and in the next few weeks the Motor Agents' Association will hold talks with the oil companies on an advertising strategy.

Mr. Brandon Sawill, secretary of the Motor Industry Consumer Committee, said yesterday: "Complice officers are splendid, but too many are misleading. Motorists are being taken for a ride. Fireproof off what? Is the vital question."

The same was said that over half the garages had pump prices that were different from the advertised level. One third had signs advertising a number of pence off, without indicating

## Irish seek partner for £50m zinc refinery project

By Edward Townsend

Ireland's Industrial Development Authority is seeking a commercial partner for the establishment and operation of a £50m zinc refinery near Dublin.

The IDA, the Irish Government's agency for promoting industrialisation, said yesterday that the size of the plant would be determined by market considerations, but an initial capacity of 100,000-150,000 tonnes was envisaged with provision for expansion.

Proposals from smelting companies will be considered.

The United Kingdom imports all its zinc and is one of the world's leading consumers. Ireland currently supplies about 10 per cent of Europe's needs.

The IDA said that it would assist the company in its move towards the cost of fixed assets in the project and would provide training grants. Zinc exported from the smelter will also entitle a partner to road tax relief of up to £100,000.

Two mining companies, Turf Mines and Drif, have reached agreement with the Irish

Government for mining and concentrating the ore at the new site. The Government will participate directly in the refinery project but share

holdings will be a matter for negotiation.

The Times index : 163.46-0.17  
The FT index : 396.1-1.1

THE POUND	
	Bank buys sells
Australia 5	1.60
Argentina, Sols	25.50

Belgium Fr	\$1.75	78.75
Canada \$	1.24	1.79
Denmark Kr	12.19	11.70
Finland Mk	7.50	7.35
France Fr	0.32	0.31

France Ft	9.25	8.75
Germany Dm	3.00	4.50
Greece Dr	60.50	65.00
Hongkong \$	9.85	9.55
Italy Lr	1735.00	1665.00

Japan Yu	645.00	550.00
Netherlands Gld	5.36	3.70
Norway Kr	10.50	10.55
Portugal Esc	57.00	51.40
S Africa Rd	2.15	2.15

Spain Per	121.00	125.00
Sweden Kr	8.70	8.40
Switzerland Pr	3.00	4.50
US \$	1.52	1.02
Yugoslavia Din	27.80	24.00

[illegible]

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## Alcan (UK) seeks fifth price rise in two years

Alcan (UK), the British subsidiary of the Canadian aluminium company, confirmed yesterday it had pre-announced its intention to implement a further price increase. Failing objections, the increase will be imposed next month and will be the fifth in two years.

Alcan said it could not confirm a report that it would like to raise its United Kingdom ingot price to £464 a tonne from the present level of £420. Such an increase equals more than 10 per cent against the last rise of only 6 per cent imposed in December, 1975.

In March, 1974, Alcan's ingot price was raised to £314.50 a tonne and subsequently rose in four stages to its present level.

Alcan is Britain's leading aluminium supplier chiefly to the transport, construction and packaging industries, and is trend setter for product pricing.

## Car production fell 6pc in February

Car production in the United Kingdom last month, according to Department of Industry figures published yesterday, was 119,898. This was a 6 per cent drop on the corresponding month of last year.

Discounting seasonal fluctuations, February car output was 134,000, which was 27 per cent above the monthly average for the whole of 1975 and a further indication of the rising trend in car manufacture.

Production for the home market was 19 per cent down on a year earlier, while production for export increased by 19 per cent.

## Newcastle metro link

The Monument interchange station for Newcastle upon Tyne's new metro is to be built by Cementation Construction under a £4m contract. The station will be sited beneath the Earl Grey monument in the city centre. Work starts in the spring. Mott Hay & Anderson are consulting engineers.

## Machine tool output

One of British Leyland's specialist companies, Aveling-Barford, which makes construction equipment, is to spend almost £750,000 on machine tools in the first phase of a major investment programme at its factory at Grantham in Lincolnshire. The company intends to buy British tools "wherever possible".

## Textile exports plea

A call for government support in opening up export markets, often restricted by artificial barriers, came from Mr Philip M. Woolf, Managing Director of National Wool Textile Export Corporation, at Bradford yesterday. British wool cloth exports in 1975, at £100m, fell by £14m on the previous year.

## Two further offshore discoveries boost Britain's gas prospects

By Roger Vielvoe  
Energy Correspondent

Britain's offshore gas prospects received a boost yesterday with two small but significant gas discoveries—one in the Irish Sea and the other in the southern part of the North Sea.

The Phillips Consortium, which has been drilling on block 49/11a, 55 miles north-east of the gas reception terminal at Bacton, in Norfolk, announced that it had found a new field in the North Sea which had been named Audrey.

Hydrocarbons GB, a 100 per cent owned subsidiary of the British Gas Corporation said it had drilled a third successful well on a gas reservoir in the Irish Sea, north-west of Liverpool.

The Phillips discovery is of considerable interest as it is only a few miles west of the Viking gasfield, which is in production and feeding natural gas into the United Kingdom transmission network through a pipeline to Theddlethorpe in Lincolnshire.

Block 49/11a is also immediately south of the small Ann gasfield. Asip, one of Phillips partners in the exploration consortium, said that "important" quantities of gas had been found which would permit the commercial exploitation of the smaller Ann field.

Phillips, the operator for the group, was more cautious. It said tests on the reservoir had produced 18 million cubic ft of gas a day, but further drilling would be needed to determine whether the field was commercial.

Industry sources say that Audrey and Ann, which was also discovered by the Phillips group, could be produced jointly and the output fed into the Viking field production network.

Phillips has a 35 per cent stake in Audrey and Ann. Other shareholders are: Fina 30 per cent; Agip 15 per cent; Oil Exploration (Holdings) 8.52 per cent; Century Power & Light 7.2 per cent; Tarmac 4.26 per cent.

The Irish Sea well, in block 110/2, had flow rates of 10 to 15 million cubic ft a day, which were described by a British Gas spokesman as "encouraging".

No information has been released on the results of the first two successful wells on the block. The results of the three wells are being evaluated and the corporation hopes that the data will enable it to decide whether the field has sufficient reserves to warrant the construction of a production platform and a pipeline to the coast.

As the sole owner of any reserves that may be proven in block 110/2, British Gas is not under the same commercial pressures to develop the field as oil companies making a similar discovery.

It is thought the corporation might like to develop the field and use it to meet peaks of production instead of depleting the reserves of a development in a rapid return on investment.

## Dockers reject PLA closure proposals

By Tim Jones  
Labour Staff

London dockers have rejected a consultation document prepared by the Port of London Authority which recommends that general cargo facilities in West India and Millwall docks should be transferred to the Royal Docks.

A statement issued by the Transport and General Workers' Union docks section said: "We reiterate our opposition to the proposed closures and we are now preparing the trade unions' case for the retention of the docks as a viable operation."

According to the PLA, only by rationalising facilities and reducing manpower costs, without containing charges, can it continue to attract traffic in a competitive market at a time when there is over capacity of port facilities in Britain.

Its document says: "Within the enclosed docks of the Port of London there is substantial overcapacity and the total traffic at present handled in the two upper docks can be handled by the Royal Docks, with additional available capacity of some 80 per cent above existing trade levels."

## Export credit agreement near

Brussels, March 18.—An export credit agreement between the United States, the EEC, Japan and Canada is nearing completion, with an announcement expected early next month.

EEC sources said France, Britain, West Germany and Italy informed their other partners of an agreement tentatively reached with the United States, Japan and Canada earlier this week in Paris.

According to these sources, the agreement was discussed yesterday by ambassadors of member states to the European Commission in Brussels with the aim of bringing the agreement into a Community framework.

It is aimed at preventing any competitive outbidding on government-financed export credits.—AP-Dow Jones.

## Subsidy 'propaganda' about transport costs

From Mr F. Doerflinger

Sir, We deplore the constant emphasis on subsidies without proper explanation in the media coverage of the problems of British Rail Road infrastructure is financed by public funds without any reference to subsidy while the rail and inland water modes are expected not only to finance their own track but make a profit from its utilization.

Even more, rail and water are told that a particular section of track must make a profit and that a new section cannot be built or modernised without necessarily making a profit. When has anybody made the same demands of a particular road?

Similarly the costs of amortising public expenditure on road infrastructure, of policing, signalling, lighting, accidents and pollution of the environment, etc., are not calculated in road investment figures.

Until such time as each mode of transport is financially and operationally on the same criteria the public will remain ignorant of the true costs of transport and be continuously subjected to British Road Federation "subsidy propaganda".

What this country urgently needs is a national integrated transport policy in which mode is judged on the same criteria and is allowed to do what it can do best in both economic and social cost terms.

Yours faithfully,  
FREDERIC DOERFLINGER,  
Chairman,  
Inland Shipping Group,  
(The Inland Waterways Association),  
12 Denewood Road,  
Highgate,  
London N6 4AJ.  
March 16.

## European levels: a misconception

From Mr Gerhart

Sir, Mr J. R. I. Department of Technology (in his you published quotes figures re: head of population of European countries cause these are not higher except Italy, the figure for the UK Mr Hough draws that his statistics to dispel the misconception.

This suggestion a misconception must be completely meaningless, less it is a first average population, and as a proportion of those over all the countries Hough, except earnings are for Britain. Even a figure for the UK Mr Hough draws that his statistics to dispel the misconception.

Yours faithfully,  
GERHARD FIS  
Constitutional  
86 St James's S.  
London, SW1.  
March 10.

## Unit trust sales last month below January high

By Our Financial Staff

Reflecting quieter stock market conditions, unit trust activity in February failed to match the high levels of the previous month, according to figures from the Association of Unit Trust Managers.

Sales last month of £30.8m were bolstered by the initial launch of the Laid & Critchfield Income Fund. This was a drop of £5.6m on January's total, but was still above the £27m average monthly sales figure last year.

The decline was partially offset by lever repurchases at £1.5m, compared with January's hefty level of £17.3m. Net new investment in unit trusts last month was £15.8m, but in line with the monthly average last year.

Total value of unit trusts funds under management has slipped below January's record high of £2,729m to £2,680m, but remains above the previous high of December, 1975.

## EEC industrial output continues to recover

Brussels, March 18.—Industrial production in the European Economic Community as a whole continues to recover, the European Commission said in its latest graphs and notes on the EEC economic situation, published today.

When the latest business surveys were carried out, favourable assessments of the production outlook for the months ahead outnumbered pessimistic opinions for the first time in almost two years, the Commission added.

The industrial upswing in the EEC which began in a relatively small number of sectors, and more especially in consumer goods, had now spread to almost the whole industry, the report said.

New orders were increasing appreciably in the industries producing intermediate goods and capital goods, even though export demand was expanding only moderately.

For several EEC countries the upswing in the seasonally adjusted industrial production index slackened in December, the Commission report said, but this apparent slowdown was primarily attributable to exceptional technical factors and the longer end-of-year holidays.

In France, it said, industrial production expanded at a distinctly faster pace in the closing months of 1975, to reach, as in West Germany and Holland, its peak for the year at the end of December.

The labour market conditions had improved slightly since last summer, the report found, adding that in West Germany and Holland the seasonally adjusted number of unemployed in January was below high peaks reached during the second half of 1975.

The labour situation in Denmark, Italy and Belgium tended to stabilize with only Ireland and the United Kingdom showing rapid increases in unemployment although there were signs of a slowdown in Ireland in January and in the United Kingdom in February.—AP-Dow Jones.

## The balance between jobs and industrial safety

From Mr V. C. Carr

Sir, Asbestos is but one industrial problem in a very wide range of possibly hazardous processes in industry. Cancer, perhaps the most serious, is only one of a number of diseases—others include bronchitis, dermatitis and allergies which all have varying effects on the individual and interact with other outside influences which are difficult to apportion.

Surely it is right that we should do everything possible to make working conditions as safe as possible in the light of up-to-date knowledge. However, we must remember to somehow constrain our purpose in a way that the job or the industry does not disappear. Revengeful compensation based on up-to-date knowledge retrospectively imposed and the call for an absolute "all-risk" criteria is one way in which to ensure that the process and the job will in the future not exist for a United Kingdom employee. This can and will affect certain segments of our economic prosperity. I believe the attitude of management and workers to health and safety in the United Kingdom is much more responsible than in Western Europe or in the United States. Unfortunately this is to our economic disadvantage, besides I hear no cries for compensation or of industrial safety campaigners behind the curtain.

Unless we learn to balance the conflicting requirements of jobs and safety with a margin of common sense we could have severe pockets of unemployment in place of reasonable working conditions.

Yours faithfully,  
V. C. CARR,  
3 Hillcrest,  
Penley,  
Near Wrexham,  
Clwyd,  
North Wales.  
March 15.

## A 'talk-in' with sixth formers

From Mr Colin Minton

Sir, David Clutterbuck (Letters, March 15) has raised a number of interesting questions about what is being taught in schools nowadays about industry and commerce. As many of your readers will know The Industrial Society has been running two-day conferences in the sixth forms of schools in this country for nearly 10 years. At these conferences we bring together teachers, managers and trade unionists who, with small groups of sixth formers, spend two solid days discussing some of the problems and solutions of involving people at work in this country in the creation of the goods and services the community needs.

If I could use your column to ask any of your readers who are interested in helping the society and its members in the most practical way to extend and expand these conferences we should be delighted to involve them.

Yours faithfully,  
COLIN MINTON,  
Director,  
The Industrial Society,  
Peter Runge House,  
3 Carlton House Terrace,  
London SW1Y 5DG.

## Rules for employer

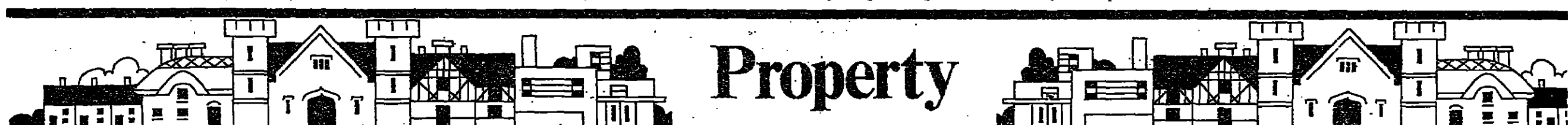
From Mr C. L. Sir

Frank you on March 12 Mr H. W. J. of us remember laid down 1 Beveridge for

How splendid every member Commons. House of I declare that Sir William's

There seem very real dangers of claiming at exclusion of t Yours faithful C. L. Sir

3 Hayes Close  
Ottendon,  
Buckinghamshire  
Devon EX9 7J  
March 15.



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Superb two bedroom flat on 3rd floor. Large double living room, excellent modern kitchen, bathroom. Over 60 sq. ft. Low outgoings. £24,000. To include: fridge, cooker, fitted carpets and curtains. 01-877 8347

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BY THE FINANCIAL EDITOR

## BP's uncertain scenario

ie, stock market is jittery about BP and yesterday's report that its reduced forecast for 1975, particularly on the oil trading front, suggested what might be the end of the draw from net income. The market's most expectations came back a further 10p.

Finally the final quarter report little comfort about the oil in crude oil sales, which had been the mainstay of BP. The volume of sales in this period fell to 8 million tons—lower than any of the three preceding years—partly reflecting the drop in the OPEC 10 per cent price increase last October. A trend appears to have been established in the first quarter, but margins obviously remain very tight and the OPEC threat is making increased oil imports into the market. It hardly bodes well for BP's surplus.

Product sales (including refining) at 24.4 million tons, the final quarter were on a steady improving trend, and that improved, as Shell and ICI have found, is continuing.

Marcel can be expected to harden its refinery runs. Improvements in BP's fourth quarter net were 54.8m and while included £21m of asset disposal, this was largely offset by a rise in the OPEC price provision during the last quarter.

Because ICI has heavy international commitments, particularly since government research and development support is coming to an end, it would be no surprise to see a deferred payment formula based on the Singer business's performance. Short-term uncertainties about this deal, coupled with what could turn out to be an over-enthusiastic estimate of ICI's capacity to put up dividends from the nominal 1p a share, and talk that one of the big shareholders—probably GEC with around 18 per cent—wants to sell, could place the shares in limbo for the moment.

**Beaverbrook**  
**Still under pressure**

Better things were expected from Beaverbrook after the fine recovery in the second half of its last financial year, and the shares fell 3p to 32p on the results. The latest half-year figures showed an overall loss of £202,000 against last year's corresponding £652,000, now emphasize how crucial loss elimination was last year, and the extent to which the underlying trading picture is under pressure.

There has been a £584,000 turnaround at the trading level to a £279,000 profit. But last year was dragged down by the cash outflow at the Glasgow works and the latest period has seen the benefit of two cover up increases at the Sunday Express. In the six months to last December advertising revenue showed no improvement and costs continued to rise under the twin pressures of a £23m higher wage bill and the implication of levying prices to compensate for the fall in sterling.

Depreciation was also higher at £555,000 to cover the new printing machinery and there was an exceptional bad debt provision of £172,000. And two cover up increases at the Sunday Express. In the six months to last December advertising revenue showed no improvement and costs continued to rise under the twin pressures of a £23m higher wage bill and the implication of levying prices to compensate for the fall in sterling.

The current half has begun on a brighter note with display advertising pricing up, and last month a 1p rise in the Daily Express cover price is worth £5m in revenue in a full year (provided circulation does not drop off as a result).

Against that newspaper prices are due to rise again soon and the Fleet Street and Bristol property developments are let borrowings and interest charges—up to £850,000 in the



Mr. David Steel, chairman of British Petroleum, a further fall in the volume of crude sold.

meant to show good faith. But as Singer's computer problems stemmed from North American operations which are of course not included in the business being sold to ICI, and because the international operation was apparently quite profitable, this could turn out to be a big purchase for ICI, which is currently capitalised at around £42m.

Because ICI has heavy international commitments, particularly since government research and development support is coming to an end, it would be no surprise to see a deferred payment formula based on the Singer business's performance. Short-term uncertainties about this deal, coupled with what could turn out to be an over-enthusiastic estimate of ICI's capacity to put up dividends from the nominal 1p a share, and talk that one of the big shareholders—probably GEC with around 18 per cent—wants to sell, could place the shares in limbo for the moment.

**Computers**  
**ying more stomers**

It seems that the 78 will be needed as a watershed in the use of International Computers. Earnings per share ahead again last year 203p to 24.2p and with 10p extra on the company about 34p.

Investors took the hint. In December ICI's shares, which had been one of the market's white elephants, achieved star status with a rise of around two-thirds. The now is 125p, down 1p yesterday as the market tried to digest the implications of the daily important acquisition of Singer business international operations so far are scanty.

There should be more news next week. ICI is around £70m worth of shares, and its turnover last of £240m, and more significantly, since in the business customers tend to be loyal, increasing its customer base from some 3,400 to

key question now is how intends paying for the business, something cannot be known until some time next week.

For the moment the company has paid a £2m which will almost certainly be seen as a token payment.

first half will remain comfortably high. Though the advertising side is looking better, Beaverbrook should for the moment be treated mainly as a property situation.

Interim: 1975/76 (1974/75)  
Capitalisation £4.9m  
Pre-tax loss £202,235 (£652,247)  
Dividend gross nil (nil)

**JFB**  
**Over the worst**

A fall of just over 17 per cent in the pre-tax level undoubtedly flattened Johnson & Johnson, for the figure takes in £400,000 from month contribution from N. Greening while the bulk of the financing costs of the acquisition come through below the line in preference dividends. Take this into account and net attributable profits for the half year to December emerge some 40 per cent lower or 30 per cent down in fully diluted earnings per share terms.

That, however, is not the only way in which the pre-tax figure tells but part of the story. In effect, the apparent £300,000 downturn (allowing for Greening contribution) is more than accounted for by three specific setbacks. First there were the run-down trading losses connected with the older equipment phase-out at Williams Beadmore. Second, there was the reversal into losses at Firth Vickers under the twin impact of lower volume and price competition. Third there have been losses at Peckless, Fencing, which is now to be phased out. Take out these three factors, however, and J & J has managed to more than maintain profitability on its other operations despite lower throughput.

What is more, the indications for the second six months look reasonably promising at this stage. While the going seems likely to remain fairly sticky for Firth Vickers, the group for signs that the worst of the recession is now past.

While the market may not be totally convinced, J & J reckons it can finance the next upturn in metal prices without recourse to a rights issue. In the meantime a prospective field of around 10 per cent still has its attraction, while a capitalisation of £24m may not be taking full account of the 1976/77 earnings potential.

Interim: 1975/76 (1974/75)  
Capitalisation £34.4m  
Sales £85.1m (£86.5m)  
Pre-tax profit £238m (£289m)  
Dividend gross 1.35p (1.35p)

**Patterson Zochonis**  
**Profits leap**

One economy that has continued to boom over the last year has, of course, been the Nigerian economy. And for Patterson Zochonis, that has meant an explosion in sales and profits. Ex-Cussons, then, sales are up by just over 50 per cent in the six months to November, while pre-tax profits have more than doubled to over £28m.

But while much of that is attributable to straight volume growth, PZ is also continuing to benefit from the growing proportion of higher priced and higher margin goods in its sales mix. As for Cussons, £10.1m pre-tax for the eight months to November compares well with some £12m for the 12 months to last March.

It remains to be seen, of course, just how long the group can maintain this kind of pace, but trading since November apparently augurs well and there must also be substantial currency benefits to come through too in the second half. So, with the Ordinary at 200p and the "A" at 190p, one may well be talking in terms of a prospective 1976/77 (1975/76)  
Capitalisation £30.3m  
Sales £74.3m (£38.3m)  
Pre-tax profit £9.1m (£3.5m)  
Dividend gross 1.25p (0.86p)

The group's middle managers and 37 per cent by its lower paid workers.

As non-executive chairman of British Leyland from April 1, he will earn £22,500, £36,136 less than at BAT.

Sir Charles Villiers is likely to prove a controversial BSC chairman as Sir Monty Finiston. At a conference on the future of the company he said that workers in manufacturing industry should pay a tax of 30p in the pound, while everybody else should pay 35p.

In this way, he argued, the tax system could be used not only to distribute wealth but also to distribute labour.

Equally contentious was his suggestion for what he called an "investment guarantee for industry" operating rather like the Exports Credit Guarantee Department. His idea is that banks should lend medium-term funds to industry for investment at concessionary rates, and should receive a government supplement to bring their return up to market levels. The loan should then be guaranteed by the Department of Industry.

As if this weren't enough for one speech, he proposed that works councils should be set up on French and German lines in all enterprises involving more than 250 workers.

12th March 1976. F. M. DOUGLAS, Chairman.

12th March 1976. F. M. DOUGLAS, Chairman.

12th March 1976. F. M. DOUGLAS, Chairman.

## Taking the heat out of the nuclear fuel reprocessing debate

The result of Mr. Benn's "public debate" on the question of reprocessing foreign nuclear fuel at Windscale, Cumbria, was twofold. First, as announced last week, the government cleared the way for the state-owned British Nuclear Fuels Limited (BNFL) to gain, all being well, a large reprocessing order from Japan.

Secondly, and this presumably was not the intention, the delay arising from the debate resulted in the prospect that BNFL would lose perhaps £200m of the £500m total business to the French counterpart. Both BNFL and the French organisation, a subsidiary of the French Atomic Energy Commission, are acting under the umbrella of United Reprocessors, an Anglo-French German market-sharing body.

The French involvement is subject to the approval of the Japanese, enrichment and reprocessing group.

But apart from the result, what of the debate itself? As well as the general pro-nuclear versus anti-nuclear arguments, specific points of safety, technology and energy management emerged.

BNFL argued that its health and safety record was remarkably good. All new technology carried some risk, but the nuclear industry was safer than some others and the increase in risk from the extra reprocessing was small.

The safety advisor to the Atomic Energy Authority said he believed that, over the next 10 to 20 years, the nuclear industry would have a safety record perhaps 10 times less hazardous than the commercial chemicals industry.

The Friends of the Earth Organisation disagreed. Nuclear risk, even more than most, is not known, and is known to be unknown, they argued; the question was whether uncertainty was to be

constructed as grounds for caution or as a licence to plunge ahead.

Of the 4,000 tonnes of fuel involved in the Japanese contract, BNFL indicated only 120 tonnes or 3 per cent would be radioactive waste. The remaining 97 per cent would be uranium and plutonium; these were important sources of energy, the uranium now and the plutonium in the future.

The radioactive waste would eventually be returned to the customer, BNFL stressed; this would be after a process to convert the liquid waste into blocks of glass had been developed. This, the company was confident, would be ready by the mid-1980s.

Against this, the opponents of the scheme argued that neither "classification" nor the reprocessing itself was a proven, established technology. The reprocessing would be of so-called oxide fuel, which emerged from the reactor much more radioactive than the metal fuel which was used in the first-generation British magnox stations.

(According to BNFL, the advance in technology to reprocess oxide fuel is not a major step, and the company would not be allowed to operate the plant unless the nuclear inspectorate were satisfied.)

About 1 per cent, or 40 tonnes, of plutonium would be recovered from the 4,000 tonnes of Japanese oxide fuel. This, Mr. Walter Patterson of Friends of the Earth said, was enough to make about 4,000 bombs and posed a terrifying security problem in transporting it back to Japan.

But the recoverable fuel from the Japanese contract

would be a substantial source of energy, the Atomic Energy Authority pointed out. If the plutonium and uranium that was recovered were to be burned in breeder reactors, it would fuel the British electricity system at its present level for 100 years. It was equivalent to about 10,000 million tons of coal—rather more than the country's coal reserves of the United Kingdom.

Nonetheless, the opposition argued, if reprocessing had to be carried out as an industrial activity, it should be done on the basis of international fuel cycle centres which would be internationally administered. Windscale, indeed, would be a prime candidate to become such a centre.

Though not part of the reprocessing debate, some relevant remarks on the risks of theft and sabotage were made in a Lords debate on nuclear safety recently by Lord Alton of Liverpool.

He recalled that 20 uranium fuel rods were stolen from Bradwell, Essex in 1966; and five uranium rods disappeared somewhere between the fabrication plant at Springfields, Lancashire, and the nuclear station at Wylfa, Anglesey in 1971.

Support for the expansion of Windscale to take on the Japanese work came from the local authority, the local MP and the Electrical and Electronic Union. The EEU estimated the Japanese contract would mean about 1,000 more jobs in the processing, plus about 500 more jobs in the construction industry. As an aside, the union spokesman added that there would certainly be more deaths, more accidents and more pollution of the atmosphere from the importation of Japanese cars than there would be from the importation of Japanese fuel.

BNFL's reasons for wanting

circumstances by eating the protein concentrates themselves instead of first feeding them to animals which do not pass on as much protein in meat as they consume in feed.

The world protein shortage is one of the most popular themes of the day in debates about food. This week Nabisco, which sells biscuits and cereals in Britain, announced in the United States that it was entering a joint venture to sell a mixture of rice and TVP to developing countries. The venture was called "New Rice" and was a joint venture between Nabisco and a Japanese firm.

Miles Laboratories, which markets TVP in Britain, sells an "instant" bacon in the United States which contains no animal matter except egg albumen. The result is a frozen pink and brown rubbery strip which turns, when fried briskly, into a remarkable likeness of a rashers cooked to the brittle state that Americans like.

The livestock industry in Britain is worried that somebody will develop a soybean that can be grown here and that somebody else will produce a soy-based lamb chop or beef steak. But the limits

resemble steak are sold in a sweet sauce. The product contains 6 per cent by weight of beef fat.

The most notable processor of meat to launch a soy-based competitor, S. Daniels, distributor of Danon's hams, sausages and tinned stew has based selling a meatless curry based on the Courtauld spun protein product. Keep. In shops it costs about 10p per cent, the nearest Danon's meat-based equivalent.

In its desire to push the soybean industry forward, the food industry has adopted all arguments advanced in favour of it by vegetarians, ecologists and the animal welfare lobby. The claim that the soybean supplies protein needs for an average man from one acre for more than 2,000 days has been quoted repeatedly. The comparable figures for beef and pork are said to be 129 and 77.

It is said to give the benefit and texture of animal protein without the expense of feeding livestock and the distasteful business of slaughtering them. Until the large food companies take the business the retail trade in textured vegetable protein was restricted to health food shops.

The land devoted to soybeans in the United States, the world's largest exporter, is equivalent almost to the entire farm and horticultural acreage of the United Kingdom. The EEC, which is self-sufficient in many basic foodstuffs, falls far short of internal needs for protein, and the industry is looking for a large fraction of the Community's import bill for agricultural imports.

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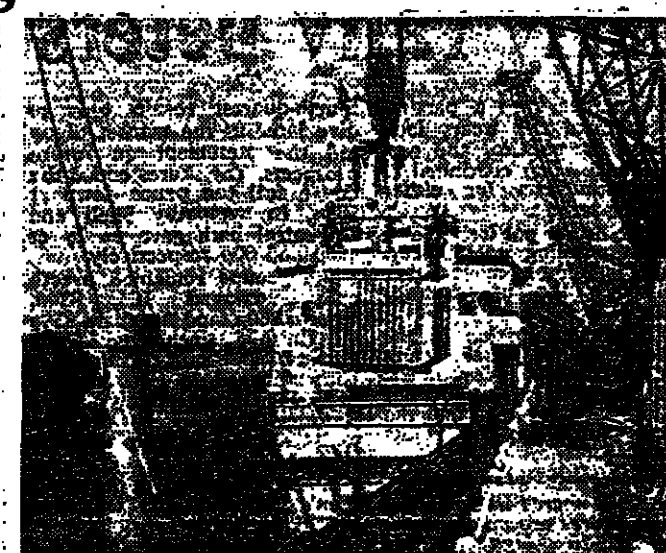
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A consignment of nuclear fuel being unloaded at Whitehaven en route for the Windscale reprocessing plant.

to take on external reprocessing were "purely commercial" the company said. Britain was more advanced and experienced in the technology than most other countries.

As far as the environmental effects were concerned Mr. Cot Allday, BNFL managing director, made this comment: "I believe that the burning of conventional fuels instead of nuclear, with the consequent immediate pollution of the environment by sulphur dioxide and other combustion products, together with the long-term effect of depriving future generations of the benefit of fossil deposits for them to use as a source of valuable chemicals rather than the wasteful way of using them to produce energy, is of much more serious concern."

Inevitably, it proved virtually impossible to isolate the question of extra reprocessing for foreign

customers from the general arguments for and against nuclear power. But to a certain extent they can be separated. On the extra reprocessing, the combination of the existing tight independent monitoring and control at Windscale, and the precautionary options that will be written into the overseas contracts, led Mr. Benn, rightly to approve the extra work.

On the general nuclear argument, it was not only BNFL who pointed out that to imagine that the world's energy needs could be met in future without recourse to nuclear power was a delusion. And reprocessing, as indicated, could make a very significant contribution to future fuel supplies.

Kenneth Owen  
Technology Correspondent

## Vegetable protein: a new ingredient in the British diet

RECOMMENDED RETAIL PRICES OF TINNED FOODS

Typical shop price: no recommendation by manufacturer

When the NFU learned that soy protein was being used experimentally in school meals to cut prices it said: "Such material must not be allowed to be used in school meals. The FOW considered picketing school in Gwynedd when the county council examined the potential of 'synthetic meat' in school meals."

Mr. R. J. Williams, county secretary of the Anglesey branch of the union, said in January: "Gwynedd is a live stock rearing area and farmers feel bitterly that they are being sold out by the local authority if it goes ahead with this proposal."

The union ridiculed the estimated saving on school meal bills of £18,000 a year and observed that the county was increasing its spending on the Snowdonia National Park alone by 10 times that amount.

The textured vegetable protein (TVP) plan was dropped, but not before Mr. H. R. Hughes, deputy president of the union, had spoken sharply about "disquieting reports" about the long-term effect of using TVP. "It is not possible to produce this evidence in a form for parents to consider it," he said. "But I have seen enough of it to convince me that I would not let my children have it."

The soy lobby is less vocal but no less influential. It was given a boost last year by the Food Standards Committee of the Ministry of Agriculture which recommended that min-

imum meat content rules for processed foods should be changed to allow inclusion of up to 30 per cent TVP if labels were amended as well. That would enable the producer of, say, a beefburger, to replace 30 per cent of the minimum meat content by the entire product of 80 per cent with TVP.

Ministers have not yet decided whether to do as the committee suggests. But processors have seized on its report as an endorsement of their product. RHM said in an advertisement directed at caterers: "Now textured vegetable protein has the blessing of the Food Standards Committee there's no reason why you can't make full use of it to make your meat go further and dramatically reduce your costs."

There are sound economic reasons why canteen managers and meal organizers in schools and hospitals should be attracted by TVP. It is easier to prepare than meat and mince or sausage meat and adequately sauced it is hard to detect. That explains why some of the largest meat processors in the country, like Unilever and Spillers, also sell catering packs of TVP.

The retail market was harder to crack, and for months everyone in the industry waited tensely for the first sign of a jump in sales. Neslé was the first, and used the prestigious and long-standing Croisse & Blackwell label as a vehicle for a meat extender.

After the Neslé experiment good enough to get out of BNFL's door, Cadbury Schweppes has launched a meat-like tinned product in which soy granules that look like mince and chunks that

medium of pre-packaged, written list of questions and answers.

It's doubtful whether anybody came away much wiser than when they went in, unless you count that interesting but useless revelation that, statistically speaking, Indians smoke one third of a cigarette a day.

Daube managed to get through his questions and to maintain a reputation of "responsible" dissent, but Sir Richard even managed to get in a few last plugs for the old firm.

There was one particularly good example which arose out of BAT's doing nearly all its business abroad.

Daube read out a question: "Does the company use tobacco grown on land that could otherwise have been used for the production of food crops?"

Sir Richard responded that as tobacco is a highly fertilized crop, and is "invariably" grown in rotation with other crops, the food is produced from the presence of tobacco without it.

Taxed about that salary increase to £58,636 last year, Sir Richard said that the increase represented at most "catching up". From 1971 his pay had gone up only 22 per cent against 72 per cent achieved by

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## FINANCIAL NEWS AND MARKET REPORTS

## Stock markets

## Early rally peters out as buyers stay away

The market bore a particularly subdued and weary look yesterday as political and economic uncertainty continued to crush enthusiasm for either buying or selling.

As one dealer put it: "We've all been reading water today. Nobody is going to move either way while the uncertainties remain."

A brief continuation of the previous night's after hours rally had the FT index up 2.2 points in the opening hour, but this was soon reversed and the closing figure was 1.1 points down at 396.1.

At 8.5p the shares in Combined English Stores are much nearer their 1975-76 "high" of 94p than the 22p "low" despite market bearishness about shops.

CEC will soon report on the year to last January, and it should show profits of up to 54m against £3.5m. At half-time, profits had risen from £1m to £1.42m. Cash resources are strong. But what the first half of this year holds is another matter.

The conundrum for investors was split out simply enough by one dealer who reckoned he had had plenty of time to philosophise during the day.

"You can argue shares are cheap, but if that's so then this is a bull market. And if this is a bull market, then what's the point in trying to beat the book and avoid the small premium when certainty is going to come?"

However, despite the general despondency there was evidence of an underlying firmness and a stream of company trading results produced a few significant gains in this trading.

Of this provided some interest with BP recovering at first on

fourth-quarter results only to dive later as the market digested the statement on future prospects. The shares ended the day a full ten pence down at 85p. In sympathy Shell and Tricentrol both gave up 2p at 40p and 60p respectively.

Big groups remained practically unmoved. ICI, 394p, Fisons, 360p, and Beecham 358p all finished unchanged. Tube Investments and Courtauld both managed 1p rises to 365p and 149p respectively while Bowater gave up 2p at 194p and GKN fell back 3p to 332p.

British American Tobacco climbed 3p to 358p on the chairman's forecast of improved profits for 1976.

Encouraging news about the Lloyds rights issue came too late to lift the shares off their overnight level of 215p, but other banks firmed. Barclays rose 7p to 277p, Midland climbed 3p to 268p, and National Westminster also rose 3p to 235p.

Standard Chartered, however, did not look so healthy. The ordinary dipped 5p to 360p while the new shares were halved to 7p.

Bank note manufacturer, De La Rue's attempt to make "new" money by a £4m rights got a particularly poor reception and the shares were cut back 13p to 233p. Youghal Carpets were also stunned after their announcement of £2.2m rights and the shares fell 3p to 90p.

Montague Burton Property Investment spurred on news of the minorities bid from the parent company and the shares finished 23½p up at 70p.

Meanwhile, news that the offer from European Ferries had become fully unconditional made Felixstowe Docks slip 3p

to 160p. Grim results from Telefusion took the ordinary shares down 11p to 22p while the "A" shares fell back 9p to 21p. Ladbrokes lost 2p to 11p ahead of results next week although dealers reported some interest here in new time buying.

Sparkling trading results from Paterson Zochonis set the

There is a growing chorus of enthusiasm for John Brown's big engine with a chequerered past. Brokers are impressed with the new chief executive, Mr. R. Mayhew-Sanders.

The outcome for the year to March was indicated at £1.3m but there are now hopes of £1.4m, rising dramatically to £5.5m in 1975-76. The shares rose 1p to 86p.

ordinary shares bubbling up to 220p at one stage, before falling back to close at 200p a net gain of 20p. The "A" shares advanced 30p to 190p.

Good trading results also pushed Wolsley-Hughes 4p ahead to 132p and Mather Platt 3p up to 70p. Wm Collins did better still with a 14p rise to 120p, while J. Bibby advanced 5p to 87p.

The Refuge "A" shares advanced 10p after the dividend and proposals for enfranchisement of the "B" shares. Other insurance lacked direction and ended mixed.

Eagle Star managed a 2p rise to 132p and Commercial Union climbed 1p to 131p, but Sun Alliance shed 3p to 44p and General closed 1p off at 137p.

Properties were generally quiet though on a firmer trend. Town & City climbed 1p to 154p and Artogen to 64p.

Some selective interest in

motors had BLMC up 2p at 30p, while Lanson climbed 1p to 85p and Dowry closed 2p up at 166p. Streeters of Godingham went ahead 7p to 48p on selective interest.

Minies often shaded easier on lack of interest though Rio Tinto Zinc proved an exception advancing 5p to 190p on news of the molybdenum discovery by subsidiary, Borax.

Turner and Newall advanced 1p ahead of results next week while English Property after ruling on Wednesday managed a similar rise to 71p. Johnson Firth Brown advanced 2p to 57p in front of results today.

Slater Walker crossed some speculative interest with a rise of 3p to 27p.

ICI lost 1p to 125p on news of the Singer overseas division purchase.

Stores tried to outdo the market in sheer immobility with hardly a flicker of life in Boots, BHS, House of Fraser and M and S, all of which finished

unchanged. Woolworth, however, struggled up 1p to 33p and Allied Retailers put on 2p to 120p.

Gilts had a very quiet day. The market was subdued by continuing currency uncertainties and is beginning to enter its usual period of inactivity ahead of the Budget. There was a little talk of higher Minimum Lending Rate after the increases in the smaller European countries, but it never developed.

"Shorts" were unchanged or a shade easier on the day. "Longs" opened a point better, but could not hold the higher levels and ended to close unchanged.

Equity turnover on Wednesday was £71.20m. According to Exchange Telegraph, active stocks yesterday included ICI, De Beers, Shell, Burnham, BP, BAT, Fison, Thorne, Standard and Chartered new, Barclays, Grand Met, William Collins, Ladbrokes, Telefusion, De La Rue.

## Latest dividends

Company (and par value)	Ord div	Year ago	Pay date	Year's total	Prev year
BP (1s) Flt	11.74	11.50	—	17.99	16.36
J. Bibby (1s) Flt	3.51	2.50	2/5	4.15	3.85
Brown & Jackson	2.17	1.88	10/5	4.1	3.85
British Film	4.53	—	—	7.17	7
Wm Collins (1s) Flt	2.17	1.88	—	3.77	3.49
Gibbons Dudley	1.24	1.21	14/5	1.0	0.92
E. Johnson & Firth (10p)	0.37	0.67	1/7	3.08	3.07
Paterson Zoch (10p) Int	0.81	0.56	4/5	13.65	12.25
Refuge (1s) Flt	5.42	4.85	—	6.82	6.23
Mather & Platt Flt	1.84	1.75	10/5	2.06	2.5
Sharpe & Fisher (25p) Flt	1.2	1.11	22/5	1.92	1.81
Telefusion (5p) Int	0.2	0.13	—	0.40	0.36
Wm & Jans (5p) Flt	2.75	2.08	2/7	—	4.04

Dividends in this table are shown net of tax on pence per share. Rise where in Business News dividends are shown on a gross basis. † Adjusted for scrip. ‡ Forecast.

## Youghal Carpets one-for-4 'rights' to raise £2.2m

By Ashley Druker

Joining the rights queue with a call to raise £2.2m, Youghal Carpets sends out its annual report predicting a better year.

Underwriting the offer on for an issue of 3.34m ordinary shares at 70p a share on a one-for-four basis. The offer is at a discount of about 20p on yesterday's closing share price.

Mr Brian O'Brien, chairman of this Cork-based group, says in his annual statement, that the raising of additional capital is to pay for increased trading, expansion, and liquidity. The most difficult thing to cope with is the current market, which would be inflation. If this is brought under control, trading will proceed in a much more orderly fashion than in 1974 and 1975.

As basically a converter of

wool and synthetic fibres, the prices of these commodities is very significant to Youghal. The wool market as 1976 opened was "strong" and a good start.

Its Dutch acquisition, KVT accounts for much of the increase in net tangible assets from £11.9m to £15.77m. Stocks at £11.6m rose by about £3m, but they include £1.96m on account of KVT.

Short-term loans and overdrafts went up by £1.73m to £4.54m, reflecting increased working capital needs.

In the previous year, the second half of 1975, the second-half to finish with £1.65m before tax against £1.62m. The rally added to evidence of a good recovery in the high-grade Axminster and Wilton carpets sector.

## De La Rue joins cash queue for £3.9m

Yet another company wanting money is De La Rue, the London-based security printer and maker of plastic products.

The company says that it is asking shareholders for £3.9m, on a one-for-seven basis at 190p a share. The existing shares immediately fell on the news. The board explains that it needs the money to strengthen the capital base, expand at home and overseas, and reduce short-term United Kingdom borrowings.

In the past year, the company has continued with its high level of investment in plant. It has also financed more business. Despite a poor start for the year to March 31, the group has picked up.

Third quarter pre-tax profits were £2.1m against £1.4m in the second quarter, compared with £0.77m in the first three months. Much of the improvement has come from exports. In the third quarter there was a £0.3m, a 36 per cent rise on either the second quarter of this year or the third quarter of last.

According to the board, shareholders can look forward to better full-year results. It hopes to back last year's profit figure of £8.2m, and the attributable profit of £3.7m. More good news is that they will get a final payment of 14.75p gross, against last year's 13.10p. Together with an unchanged interim payment of 3.25p, this pushes up the year's dividend from 16.35p to 18.01p. Finally the board expects better trading conditions in the coming year.

At the annual meeting in April, Sir William Mather, chairman, told shareholders that sales to the group's £32m subsidiaries "were substantial" and it was important for Britain to maintain membership. Earnings a share rose a bit from 7.7p to 8.1p, and the final dividend is 2.83p gross against 2.61p. This makes 4.09p, compared with 3.72p.

Interest charges continue to take a heavy toll on earnings. At half-time, payments rose by 85 per cent to £1.28m. Full-year payments rose by 36 per cent to £2.45m. On top of this the group was hit by court costs of £331,000. This reflected a dispute with a minority shareholder in Union Preparation Systems.

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an income of £1.7m against £1.63m, brings earnings a share up from 3.01p to 3.08p and pays a maintained net dividend of 2.75p. On income for 1975 up from £481,000 to £549,000, Electrical & Industrial Investment turns in earnings of £1 deferred stock of 39p (33p).

Assurance groups report progress

London and Manchester Assurance and British Assurance, two leading life offices, both announce increased transfers to profit and loss accounts for 1975.

The ordinary branch, L & M, has transferred £477,000 (£415,500), representing the annual surplus and, in the industrial branch, the transfer is £462,000 (£409,500).

British Assurance transfer to profit and loss from long-term business is £1.24m against £1.02m and from general business £100,000—the same as in 1974. Britannic's final dividend is 4.53p net making a gross

5p share for every 15 new ordinary shares then held by former holders of the "A" shares.

Wm Collins in strong rally

In tough going publishing group William Collins, Sons report a jump in pre-tax profits of 37 per cent to £4.23m last year, turnover rose from £33.6m to £42.5m.

Interest charges climbed from £729,000 to £1,044,000 but its associate more than doubled its contribution from £153,000 to £359,000. After recurring item of £163,000, the group's profit was £2.6m, a 36 per cent rise from £1.9m.

The past year began with high stocks; heavier borrowings and a lot of its capital spending programme—uncompleted. But the year ended with record sales, a return to rising profits after the preceding period's decline, smaller stocks and a much stronger balance sheet.

Rediffusion purchase

Rediffusion has bought a 20 per cent stake in Southern Rentals for £1m. The group has also first option to buy the rest of the issued capital. Rediffusion says Southern's proprietor, Mr G. Seallor, will remain responsible for running the company. Under the deal, Mr C. Thomson, chairman of Rediffusion (South) Ltd, has been appointed a director of Southern Rentals.

A. A. Jones & Shipman

Leicester-based machine tool maker, A. A. Jones & Shipman, came through 1975 with flying colours. Pre-tax profits rose from just above £1m to £1.7m and turnover added more than £2.5m to £10.7m. This board says the results were achieved against a background of declining orders, with a consequent reduction throughout the year of work on hand. Since then orders have improved, but the group is still not selling all it could. The final dividend is £1.5m from £1.3m, making 6.2p against 5.1p.

Wolsley-Hughes' mixed start

A good half by the merchant trading conditions for the agricultural and gardening divisions of Wolsley-Hughes. Despite this, sales moved from £30.7m to £35.6m in the opening half to end-January, on which taxable profits climbed from £1.65m to £1.91m. The interim dividend is up from 3.1p to 4.23p gross.

In the previous full year to end-July, 1975, pre-tax profits were raised from £3.28m to £3.74m. This was attributed chiefly to efforts to boost sales, reduce working capital and control costs. Net bank overdrafts were sharply reduced from over £4.5m to £285,000. Last month it made a rights issue to raise about £2.7m and total dividends were forecast of 9.23p gross, an increase of 33 per cent.

Barrow Milling bid

Barrow Milling is to bid for Boland, the Dublin-based baker and miller. The terms are three ordinary shares in Barrow for every eight shares in Boland. A cash alternative of 27p for each Boland share will also be offered. A cash offer will be made for the Boland preference, valuing each share at 75p.

Check to Rivlin

Clothing importer and distributor D. & S. Rivlin Holdings is unlikely to reach the profits forecast for the extended 14 months to April 30, 1976. The recently introduced Government restrictions on textile imports, and interruptions of

ships from the Far East, are braking turnover, the board says.

But steps taken to put things right are expected to halt the trend. Profits for the preceding 12 months to end-February 1975 were £391,000 and the forecast was for an improvement on this on an annual basis. The interim dividend is a maintained 1.8p gross a share.

Thais have declined to increase the size of the loan, however, partly on the ground that they are in no urgent need of foreign loans at the moment.

Thailand's \$100m Euroloan

By Christopher Wilkins

Thailand is raising \$100m through a five-year Eurocurrency loan, the first the kingdom has ever sought.

Against a background in which some developing countries have been facing increasing difficulty raising funds in the Eurocurrency market, the syndicated loan is significant for having been oversubscribed by \$40m, despite the relatively fine margin over interbank rates of 1½ per cent.

The Thais have declined to increase the size of the loan, however, partly on the ground that they are in no urgent need of foreign loans at the moment.

## Bibby planning for rally after tumble

By Desmond Quigley

J. Bibby & Sons, the vegetable oil and agricultural group, had a £1.47m turnaround at the attributable level to tumble into a loss of £986,000 for the year to the end of December. This was after making provision for amounts owed from the sale of an Italian subsidiary.

However, the final dividend has been lifted to 6.03p gross from 5.51p to make 8.19p against 7.67p.

The provisions stem from the sale of the 53.3 per cent stake in the subsidiary, Cip-Zoo in 1974 after substantial losses to Liquidifin A.G. of Liechtenstein, a member of the Liguigas Group. The consideration was about £2.4m and a first instalment of £465,000 was received. The rest, covered by promissory notes, was due in three equal tranches over the next two years, but the amount due last

August was not received. Bibby says.

Bibby is still trying to recover the money, with £2.15m now at stake. But in the meantime it has made provision against the debt and treated it as an extraordinary item.

The group pushed trading profits up from £1.85m to £2.11m in the year on an undisclosed turnover. The farm products divisions achieved a record trading profit while the feeds and seeds division returned to profit not seen since 1973.

For this year, Bibby is aiming to beat the record profits of 1973 when a pre-tax level of £2.35m was achieved. While interest charges are expected to remain steady, there will be an increase in depreciation. This will reflect a revaluation of properties which produced a surplus of £3.87m, allowing for deferred taxation. It has been credited to reserves.

Retail turnover has shown some recovery. The group is also adding to its colour television rental subscribers. Yet sharply lower profits are still being predicted for the full year to the end of April. The £2.25m total is expected to show a surplus of "over £1m" leaving side profits of £600,000 on the sale of investments.

Mr John Wilkinson, chairman, reports an improvement in the company's financial strength in the light of the results. Telefusion is still seeing further suitable growth opportunities when they occur.

In the preceding year after a sluggish start and an opening decline, profits finished 8.8 per cent down at £3.25m. But this masked a 20 per cent rise in the second six months to £1.9m.

Telefusion blames 'penal VAT' for slump

Interim results showing a tumble in profits wiped 25m off the share value of television rental group Telefusion yesterday. The group also controls the Trident discount chain. Both classes of shares were devalued. The ordinary dropped 12p to 21p, and the "A" 12p to 19p. Pre-tax profits for the half year to end-October plummeted from £1.25m to £24,000, a 98 per cent drop from 1975. The interim dividend is 0.77p gross against 0.75p.

The directors say that the figures demonstrate the immediate effect of the introduction of the "penal 25 per cent VAT" on the household goods retail and television rental business. The VAT rate they said, resulted in unprofitable retail sales.

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# British-American Tobacco Company Limited



Sir Richard Dobson

## Chairman's Speech

at the Annual General Meeting held on 18th March, 1976.

In the past year, two directors have retired from the Board. At the end of September Mr. J. T. Husbands retired after thirty-one years with the Group, thirteen as a member of the Board. Mr. Husbands had an exceptional knowledge and understanding of Central and South America. Mr. R. J. Ogle, who retired at the end of October, was our Senior Finance Director. He had been with the Company twenty-nine years and a director for nine. His outstanding command of financial matters was a great asset to the Company during a period of expansion. We wish them both well in retirement.

I must also record our regret at the death at the age of 88 of Mr. H. R. Gough last December. Mr. Gough retired as Chairman in 1949 but remained with us as President until 1960. I am sure you will wish us to express your sympathy to his widow.

At this time last year, with most of the world's economy suffering from a combination of inflation and deepening recession, I said I did not expect higher profits for BAT in the current financial year. As the year advanced, some countries began to bring inflation under control, but their efforts in this direction resulted in some cases in a decline in consumer purchasing power and consequent lack of confidence on the part of potential investors.

In the event, the trading outcome was rather better than I feared and a substantial deterioration of sterling in the last few months of the year had a favourable effect on profits. The overall profit after tax attributable to BAT rose by 17%, of which approximately 8% was due to improved business and 9% to sterling devaluation. With inflation in this country exceeding 25% over the year, this result cannot be said to be entirely satisfactory, but in the strained economic circumstances of our major markets, I am not too discouraged by it.

Last year we discussed the basis of our inflation accounting adjustments, which are concerned with setting aside sufficient of the year's profits, recorded on the historic accounting basis, to meet the increased costs of replacing stocks and fixed assets at inflated prices. Since then the Sandilands Report has been published endorsing, on the whole, the methods we have been practising. Although, as we have stated in the Review of the Year under the heading of Inflation Accounting, there are certain differences between our method and that recommended in the Sandilands Report, we believe that the retention in inflation reserves of some £51 million, as compared with £41 million in the previous year, represents a reasonably conservative view of the extra cash needed to be retained in the business. We also believe that the figure of £85.59 million, that is the net profit after deduction of inflation reserves but including retentions in other reserves, and before the payment of dividends, represents as nearly as possible in terms of £ sterling at 30th September 1975, the added wealth of the Company resulting from its operations during the year.

The Group's net contribution to the U.K. balance of payments after deducting payments for imported materials used in this country exceeded £100 million for the first time.

Of particular interest to you as shareholders will be another Sandilands recommendation we have adopted. The Report suggests the conversion of the dividends paid over a number of years into pounds of current purchasing power so that you can better judge whether you are receiving more or less in real terms as an investor. This we have done on page 5 of our Report and Accounts—covering the last three financial years as changes in the tax system make comparison before that invalid—and it shows that the real value of the net dividend has fallen by more than 20% since 1973 despite the payment of the maximum increase permitted by law.

In the Report and Accounts on page 16, below the Group Profit and Loss Account, is a Statement of Total Gains. A significant item therein is £56.85 million described as Differences on Exchange. These are not realised profits from foreign exchange transactions. Our published accounts have to be expressed in Sterling. The majority of our assets and liabilities are overseas, recorded in the first instance in local currencies but translated into sterling at year-end exchange rates for BAT's published accounts. Where year-end exchange rates differ from year to year the same assets and liabilities will have different sterling figures attached to them. The £56.85 million is, in essence, the sum of these differences between 30 September 1975 and a year previous.

## Tobacco Division

I will now deal with the operating Divisions beginning with tobacco which remains our main source of profit. The growth of cigarette consumption continues to be slow in most developed countries, mainly owing to lower economic activity and the pressures of inflation on consumers' incomes. Although in most of these countries the pace of inflation is beginning to slow down, costs in general continue to increase and price increases to cover them are still necessary. Though these price increases are sometimes delayed because of government controls or competitive pressures, when they are implemented they normally have the effect of slowing down the growth of consumption.

In the United States, prices were raised in November 1975, and volume growth remains low. Certain of Brown & Williamson's brands have suffered some loss in market share, but the leading brand, KOOL, remains strong. The company is vigorously working on new products with a view to restoring its historic growth, and at the same time is increasing its activity in export markets. The construction of the Macon factory is on schedule and is expected that operations will begin early in 1977.

The growth of the Brazilian economy has declined somewhat from its previously high level but continues at a rate appreciably above that of most other countries. The business of Souza Cruz, our Brazilian subsidiary, continues its profitable growth at a rate ahead of the growth of the economy as a whole. This company is quite confident that it will continue to prosper despite the recent intensification of international competition in its market.

In Germany, the sale of cigarettes declined following the price increase last year but intervention continues to hold a strong position in the market.

Our International Exports Division based in the United Kingdom expects to increase its sales to world markets during the year, but at a lower rate of increase than last year. Price increases are restrained by the competitive prices in world markets of products of non-U.K. origin, particularly from the United States.

Elsewhere in the world, prospects are mixed, as is to be expected with the varying stages at which countries stand in their fight for economic recovery. Most Group companies in Latin America expect further growth in profit, but in parts of Africa and Asia the prospects are of price increases inadequate to cover rising costs.

## Retail Division

Coming now to retailing, there is good news from the United States. American shoppers, though still reluctant to spend generously at food stores, turned out in force at other kinds of retailer in the latter months of 1975 and both Gimbel's and Saks Fifth Avenue stores are benefiting. Our chain of supermarkets operating in Wisconsin and Illinois under the name of Kohl Corporation continues its steady expansion, but severe competition led to a slight drop in dollar profits last year, although in sterling terms profits were better. These retailing businesses in the States are now producing profits which handsomely outweigh their carrying costs, that is the interest on the money we had to borrow to buy them, and I am sure we have some extremely fine assets in that country on which we can build for the future.

I must not talk too much about Herten in Germany since we are minority shareholders in a public company, but I understand that all is going fairly well there.

In the current year many of the economic factors that beset the businesses last year still obtain and in some countries have intensified. With the existing curbs on purchasing power Yardley in this country is finding the going more difficult than previously. On the other hand Lendré-Moray, helped by particular success in its fragrance business, looks like having another very good year. In the United States, where the economic recovery now really does seem to be under way, the prospects for Germaine Monteil look promising. Elsewhere in the world, development continues. The business in South Africa performs well and in Australia, despite the economic difficulties, there is promise of increased sales and profits.

## Conditions in the United Kingdom

Turning now to affairs in the United Kingdom, I said last year that there was all the difference in the world between a steady improvement, however small, and a constant unremitting deterioration. I believe that I can now see the turning point. There is an improvement in two areas, both of them psychological at this stage rather than material.

In recent months some Ministers have found it politically possible to state openly certain truths which were obvious to many at least two years ago. A large section of the public now seems prepared to look at the truth and acknowledge it. No doubt the shock of unprecedented inflation had something to do with this new acceptance, and so had high unemployment, disagreeable and dangerous conditions both.

The British people recognised in 25% inflation a national emergency and, predictably, reacted in a sensible manner; but an inflation rate of 15% or even 10%, if and when the rate can be brought down that far, should still be regarded as potentially disastrous. If we become complacent after winning the first skirmish we shall certainly lose the war.

Is the people whose job opportunities are indirectly affected by industrial disturbances elsewhere. Sometimes it is the last-in, who have had no time to be mischievous even if they had been so inclined; often it is the newcomers to industry, the school leavers, who are palpably innocent. Nor should we forget the large numbers of executives who have lost their jobs and their security, often through no fault of their own.

High unemployment is never a matter for rejoicing. In the short term, it can be tolerated only if it is the sole alternative to even higher unemployment later on. Sooner rather than later it must be brought under control. If members of society have a duty to work, then society in turn has an obligation to supply jobs. Job security can only be offered by an efficient and prosperous industry.

## Share Participation

We have sought for a long time to create an atmosphere in the Company in which it can be accepted that the interests of managers, employees and stockholders are not in conflict but broadly identical. I believe we have made some progress in this direction, particularly by communication and consultation, but we should like to take a further step.

We have been examining a Savings Related Share Option Scheme which could be available to all U.K. employees of the Group with two years of pensionable service. This would be based on savings made through the National Savings Index-Linked Save-As-You-Earn Scheme. We have also been looking at a loan scheme by which we could enable selected senior management in the U.K. to purchase shares in the Company.

For various reasons, including the current phase of national incomes policy, we have not felt it immediately opportune to seek the agreement of shareholders to introduce schemes of this kind, but my colleagues and I are agreed that something should be done as soon as conditions are favourable, and we shall come to you with specific proposals in due course.

## Prospects

Turning now to the prospects of the Company for the current year, I look to increased operating profits in all four Divisions, but with reservations. There is little or no growth at present in two of our major cigarette markets, namely the United States and Germany, but with cost inflation slowing down generally in the world I expect a worthwhile increase in profits from the Tobacco Division. In Retailing, Gimbel's and Saks Fifth Avenue should continue their improved performance in the United States but will not be matched by International Stores in the United Kingdom or other food retailing companies in the Division. The Cosmetics activities are improving their profitability. Most difficult of all to judge is the progress in the Paper Division which is so dependent on the up-turn in the United Kingdom and this is coming only slowly.

Investment income, including interest received on short-term deposits, should rise and interest paid should decline slightly. On the other hand, taxation last year was proportionately lower than normal and I expect it to revert to previous levels. Thus, though the improved pre-tax profit will attract higher taxation I nevertheless expect a modest increase in the net profit attributable to BAT, without allowing for any change in the value of sterling on the foreign exchanges.

This is the last occasion on which I shall have the honour and pleasure of addressing you as Chairman for I shall be handing over that office at the end of the month to the present Vice Chairman, Mr. Macadam.

A brief account of Mr. Macadam's career is to be found on page 2 of the Report and Accounts, and you will see that his past experience has been entirely appropriate to his new task. I can assure you that his personal qualities of courage, integrity and all-round ability are equally appropriate; and shall hand over the chair to him in the full confidence that the Company will continue to grow and prosper under his leadership.

My colleagues have kindly suggested that I remain on the Board and accept the office of President. I am very pleased to be able to do this.

## GROUP PROFIT SUMMARY

	1975	1974
	£ millions	
Turnover	4,281.79	3,488.00
Operating Profit	324.59	287.76
Profit before taxation	276.48	249.44
Profit after taxation	158.59	135.43
Net Profit attributable to BAT	136.95	117.27
Dividends of BAT	28.57	26.92
	Pence	
Earnings per Ordinary Stock Unit	53.7	45.9
Dividends per Ordinary Stock Unit	11.068	10.417

I am afraid the picture in this country, in relation to International Stores, is much less encouraging. The company suffered initially from price control but more recently from price competition, as food stores are fighting for greater shares of a virtually static market in volume terms. Only very efficient store chains can make adequate profits in these circumstances. Efficiency depends to a high degree on size of stores—the bigger stores can display a wider range of merchandise, both food and non-food, while incurring proportionately lower staff costs and other overheads—and in this respect International Stores are not yet by any means as well placed as we could wish. A great deal of work has gone into improved internal controls and sales promotion, and where we have large stores we have proved that we can take on anybody. International Stores had 834 branches when they joined the Group in December 1972. By the end of last month the number was down to 867; the net result of closing 297 smaller branches and acquiring 230 larger ones. The important factor is that the total selling floor area has been increased by 50%. The policy of further increasing average store size is being actively pursued, but we still have a long way to go.

## Paper Division

By the end of the financial year the paper industry was very depressed. Sharp destocking by customers under the twin forces of inflation and recession put many mills in the United Kingdom and continental Europe on to short time with a dramatic effect on profits in this capital intensive industry. The economic climate has been so severe that some mills within the industry have had to close permanently. I am pleased to report that none of these belonged to Wiggins Teape. The company has taken vigorous steps to streamline its organisation in order to contain overhead expenditure.

On the positive side, destocking seems to be over and orders are beginning to pick up. The trend is a general one except for one or two important product groups lagging behind the others, but the recovery is slow. Greater activity will bring with it improved profits but the full benefit is not likely to be felt in the current financial year.

## Cosmetics Division

A year ago I forecast increased profits from our cosmetics business but with certain caveats in regard to the U.K. and continental Europe. In the event the Division achieved a good increase in its operating results.

On the side of ownership and management of business there are the first beginnings of a new confidence. Confidence is a tender plant which grows slowly but can be destroyed in an instant. We have been watching the steady decline of return on industrial capital in most of the western democracies over a number of years; we have also seen a sharp decline in the real rewards of management, culminating in the virtual confiscation of income on savings beyond a modest level. The mere utterances of some members of Government a year or more ago were sufficient to convince the leaders of private enterprise that they were regarded as public enemies and that their elimination was only a matter of time.

The policies of envy still cast a shadow on our society but more recently it has been said, clearly though neither loudly nor frequently enough, that private enterprise in industry must flourish if our economy is to survive. No doubt the virtual disappearance of industrial profits as a source of direct taxation has carried weight in some quarters. Words are welcome but action would be more welcome still. Industry badly needs a breathing space in which it can get on with its job and plan for the future. There is apprehension that change in the top level structure of companies, however welcome to social theorists, may impede the objective decision-making processes that are necessary to get the best return on capital investment. It would be a pity if the price of industrial peace should prove to be more than industry can afford to pay.

I said the improvement I saw was psychological rather than material because, so far, the recovery in industrial confidence rests more on the mood of the country and its acceptance of the need for restraint than on any real betterment of our economic fortunes. The immediate future can hardly be rosy.

If domestic consumption is to be brought into line with our means there will be some contraction in the home market which, together with the long awaited slow-down in the inexorable growth of public expenditure, will make both profits and jobs hard to find. Moreover, if Britain is to take advantage of improving export possibilities, more goods will need to be made by the same number of people—Britain is not the only country that is hungry to export.

Unemployment is wasteful, destructive of dignity and unfair in its incidence. It may be that some employee groups, by the use of their monopoly power, have brought their employers to their knees and thus contributed to their own misfortunes, but the intransigent and trigger-happy are by no means always the first to suffer. Sometimes it





## MARKET REPORTS

## Copper leads metal prices surge

Led by copper, values forged ahead on the London Metal Exchange yesterday, there was also a sharp rise in coffee prices, which rose to new peaks.

Under the influence of physical demand from West Germany, eastern Europe and Japan and helped by the overnight strength of United States futures and the continued unsettled state of the currency markets, copper values went strongly ahead in the pre-market, and then drifted back during trading under some profit taking.

However, fresh trade buying reversed the trend and at the close cash was 10 pence 27 ahead of Wednesday's close at £7.10 and three months had gained £7.75 to £7.50. Gains in cathodes were £3.50 for cash and £7 for three months.

In tin, the Straits price fell for the second day running, by \$M7 to \$M1063.125. But in London buying was prompted by the trend in other metals and there was also some Continental demand. The buying was met by some reserve on the part of sellers and price advanced sharply.

At the close standard cash was £40.50 up on Wednesday at £36.25 while three months had gone £39 ahead to £36.74. High grade aluminium was £40 for cash and £26 for three months, but there was no trading.

Zinc went well ahead on the pre-market with three months ranging from £38.9 to £40.3 on fresh speculative buying, but in the ring the market was nervous and under the influence of profit taking three months fluctuated in a £397-£401 range. At the close cash was £2.50 ahead of Wednesday's close at £23.50 and three months had put on £3 to £39.75.

Lead also followed the upward trend in the pre-market, three months trading between £114 and £117. In the ring dealers ranged between £114.50 and £115.50 with support coming from chart buying and there was some physical Japanese inquiry. However, at the close both cash and three months moved only fractionally up on Wednesday.

## Sales inside Japan top production of copper

Tokyo, March 18.—Japanese copper smelters said their domestic sales in February were the highest in over 10 years, exceeding output by 8,000 tonnes.

While official statistics from the Trade-Industry Ministry and the Japan Mining Association are not yet available, a preliminary estimate by these smelters shows sales topped production of 90,000 tonnes in February for the first time in 10 years. January output was 67,000 tonnes.

The smelters also estimate producers' stocks of refined copper at the end of February declined to 197,000 tonnes from 205,000 a month earlier.

Industry sources said that Japanese smelters are apparently imposing self-restraints on March sales of copper to block speculative purchases.

They believe the expansion in February sales contained a fairly large amount bought by local users to build up reduced inventories in anticipation of a further rise in world copper prices.

The sources also said that it is too early to conclude that actual demand for copper in Japan had fully recovered. The Japanese price of electrolytic copper is now £20,000 a tonne, compared with only 370,000 yen at the end of last year.

Meanwhile the head of the Japan Metal Institute in London, Mr. Takashi Ishikawa, who is here on a visit, told reporters that copper prices on the London Metal Exchange may reach £1,000 a tonne by the end of this year.

He said world copper stocks, now at around 1.5m tonnes, may be exhausted before long if world needs return to normal. He could see the possibility of world copper supply becoming tight with production in Africa slowing down.

Before coming here he had visited African copper producing countries including Zambia.

—Reuters.

## Commodities

In the soft commodities coffee went sharply ahead, spot March robustas putting on £16.50 to £888 and May rose £10 to £889. Both prices were new peaks.

Coffee.—Afternoon.—Cash wire base, 2700-2800. Robusta, 2700-2800. Arabica, 2700-2800. Robusta, 2700-2800. Arabica, 2700-2800.

SILVER.—Afternoon.—Spot, 23.10. Three months, 23.10. Silver, 23.10. Silver, 23.10. Silver, 23.10.

TIN.—Afternoon.—Standard, 23.10. Tin, 23.10. Tin, 23.10. Tin, 23.10.

At the close standard cash was £40.50 up on Wednesday at £36.25 while three months had gone £39 ahead to £36.74.

High grade aluminium was £40 for cash and £26 for three months, but there was no trading.

Zinc went well ahead on the pre-market with three months ranging from £38.9 to £40.3 on fresh speculative buying, but in the ring the market was nervous and under the influence of profit taking three months fluctuated in a £397-£401 range.

At the close cash was £2.50 ahead of Wednesday's close at £23.50 and three months had put on £3 to £39.75.

Lead also followed the upward trend in the pre-market, three months trading between £114 and £117.

In the ring dealers ranged between £114.50 and £115.50 with support coming from chart buying and there was some physical Japanese inquiry.

However, at the close both cash and three months moved only fractionally up on Wednesday.

—Reuters.

—Reuters.

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## Foreign Exchange

Foreign exchanges were steadier yesterday than for some weeks. However, pressure on the market was still intense and considerable central bank intervention was needed to keep the currencies within their specified bands.

Sterling was relatively immune to these developments and fluctuated in this and slightly erratic trading. There were no signs of Bank of England intervention.

The opening rate against the dollar was \$1.9200, but it soon moved forward. Most business was conducted at \$1.9250, but an easier tendency in the dollar emerged in the afternoon and resulted in deals at \$1.9295 at the stage.

The close saw the pound at \$1.9240, up 10 points on the day. The effective depreciation rate was 33.5 per cent, unchanged on the day.

Dealers said that the dip in sterling very late in the afternoon seemed much to one or two selling orders in a thin market.

Gold closed at \$134.5, up \$0.5 on the day.

Spot Position of Sterling

New York: \$1.9240. London: \$1.9240. Paris: \$1.9240. Frankfurt: \$1.9240. Zurich: \$1.9240. Bern: \$1.9240. Rome: \$1.9240. Athens: \$1.9240. Madrid: \$1.9240. Lisbon: \$1.9240. Algiers: \$1.9240. Tunis: \$1.9240. Cairo: \$1.9240. Beirut: \$1.9240. Damascus: \$1.9240. Baghdad: \$1.9240. Tehran: \$1.9240. Ankara: \$1.9240. Istanbul: \$1.9240. Ankara: \$1.9240. Istanbul: \$1.9240.

Forward Levels

1 month: \$1.9240. 3 months: \$1.9240. 6 months: \$1.9240. 9 months: \$1.9240. 12 months: \$1.9240.

Recent Issues

100,000 £1.00. 100,000 £1.00. 100,000 £1.00. 100,000 £1.00. 100,000 £1.00.

Gold

Gold closed at \$134.5, up \$0.5 on the day.

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## Discount market

The Bank of England gave help on an exceptionally large scale to relieve the shortage of fresh credit on Lombard Street yesterday. This assistance was channelled directly to the houses in need by way of purchases of Treasury bills and some corporation bills.

The figures suggested that the shortage was not completely brought out, and the performance of bank-bank rates in firming to around 84 per cent appeared to confirm this at the end of the day.

For the discount houses the going was difficult, but not so tough as the shortage in the money market implied. They mostly tracked down their balances at rates within a band of 71 to 8 per cent, though conditions fluctuated during the day.

Money Market Rates

Bank of England Minimum Lending Rate 5%.

Overnight: 84.00. 1 month: 84.00. 3 months: 84.00. 6 months: 84.00. 9 months: 84.00. 12 months: 84.00.

Local Authority Rates

1 month: 84.00. 3 months: 84.00. 6 months: 84.00. 9 months: 84.00. 12 months: 84.00.

Interbank Market Rates

1 month: 84.00. 3 months: 84.00. 6 months: 84.00. 9 months: 84.00. 12 months: 84.00.

Prime Bank Bill (90 days) 84.00.

Prime Bank Bill (180 days) 84.00.

Prime Bank Bill (270 days) 84.00.

Prime Bank Bill (360 days) 84.00.

Prime Bank Bill (450 days) 84.00.

Prime Bank Bill (540 days) 84.00.

Prime Bank Bill (630 days) 84.00.

Prime Bank Bill (720 days) 84.00.

Prime Bank Bill (810 days) 84.00.

Prime Bank Bill (900 days) 84.00.

Prime Bank Bill (990 days) 84.00.

Prime Bank Bill (1080 days) 84.00.

Prime Bank Bill (1170 days) 84.00.

Prime Bank Bill (1260 days) 84.00.

Prime Bank Bill (1350 days) 84.00.

Prime Bank Bill (1440 days) 84.00.

Prime Bank Bill (1530 days) 84.00.

Prime Bank Bill (1620 days) 84.00.

Prime Bank Bill (1710 days) 84.00.

Prime Bank Bill (1800 days) 84.00.

Prime Bank Bill (1890 days) 84.00.

Prime Bank Bill (1980 days) 84.00.

Prime Bank Bill (2070 days) 84.00.

Prime Bank Bill (2160 days) 84.00.

Prime Bank Bill (2250 days) 84.00.

Prime Bank Bill (2340 days) 84.00.

Prime Bank Bill (2430 days) 84.00.

Prime Bank Bill (2520 days) 84.00.

Prime Bank Bill (2610 days) 84.00.

Prime Bank Bill (2700 days) 84.00.

Prime Bank Bill (2790 days) 84.00.

Prime Bank Bill (2880 days) 84.00.

Prime Bank Bill (2970 days) 84.00.

Prime Bank Bill (3060 days) 84.00.

## Wall Street

New York, March 18.—Stock prices closed lower on the New York Stock Exchange with the Dow Jones Industrial average off 5.14 points to 975.85.

Declining issues outnumbered gainers by about 350 to about 450. Volume totalled 20,350,000 shares, compared with 26,190,000 yesterday.

Analysts attributed the loss in part to the Dow Jones News Service and Wall Street Journal report that a White House study says the recent widening in yields between stocks and bonds is in favour of bonds—suggests the market will become more sensitive to long-term interest rates than to near-term corporate profit improvement. It also indicates that some institutional managers may be turning again to bonds.

Silver dips by 3.3 cents

Silver prices fell 3.3 cents on the New York Stock Exchange yesterday.

Analysts attributed the loss in part to the Dow Jones News Service and Wall Street Journal report that a White House study says the recent widening in yields between stocks and bonds is in favour of bonds—suggests the market will become more sensitive to long-term interest rates than to near-term corporate profit improvement. It also indicates that some institutional managers may be turning again to bonds.

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Barclays Bank .... 9 1/2%  
First London Secs 9 1/2%  
C. Hoare & Co. .... 9 1/2%  
Lloyds Bank .... 9 1/2%  
Midland Bank .... 9 1/2%  
Nat Westminster .... 9 1/2%  
Roosminster ACC's 9 1/2%  
Shenley Trust .... 11 1/2%  
Williams & Glyn's 9 1/2%

\* 7-day deposits on sums of £10,000 and under, 6 1/2% up to £25,000, 6 1/2%, over £25,000, 6 1/2%.



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Prince Consort Road, London SW7.  
Tel: (01) 589 1255.

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Application forms can be obtained from: Charles Kendall and Partners Ltd., 7 Albert Court, Prince Consort Road, London, S.W.7. Tel: (01) 589 1255.

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## How executives have lost out

There is one complaint that the senior executive would certainly be justified in making; and that is there is little information available to him on how his earnings relate to other workers, or indeed to other executives in similar companies.

General organizations produce such statistics. Some surveys are narrow and superficial, others are well researched and well documented. Into this latter category falls one done recently by the incomes research unit of Lloyd's Register, the leading personnel consultants based in London.

The survey, "The Rewards of Management", looks closely at the earnings of 4,956 managers in 194 British companies and the data is analysed according to the type, size and location of the firms and the influence of both supplementary earnings such as commission and profit sharing and company cars is detailed against the various salary levels for each job.

It shows that the overall salary increases awarded in 1975 to the managers and directors who took part in it was 17.4 per cent. The lowest average being 16.5 per cent in medium-sized service companies and the highest 18.3 per cent in small/medium manufacturing companies. This compares with a national average increase of 19.3 per cent and a rise in

the Retail Price Index of 24.9 per cent in the same period. The survey clearly shows how pay differentials continue to narrow between general staff and management and 41 of the companies involved had specific pay policies giving lower paid staff higher percentage rises.

Only four manufacturing companies and seven service companies attempted to restore differentials by awarding increases to their management staff higher than those given to general employees.

A further 36 companies in the survey awarded pay increases within the £5 limit during the first two months of this year. Of these companies 29 awarded the full £312 per annum to all staff earning under £8,500 while the remaining companies paid slightly less to lower paid staff, although this had little impact on differential. The survey also records the acceleration through 1975 of the decline in the executive's living standards. It adds that, assuming technical competence in the job, the main difficulty absorbing most managers are "people problems". It is a paradox, therefore, that first-line managers with the least amount of supervisory experience are often those with large numbers of people reporting directly to them.

What is more, says the chief engineer's work, his financial reward generally falls well behind those of his contemporaries in management. Looking at top salaries the survey found that only 17 of the 4,956 executives who took part earned over £10,000 per annum, all but one being a director.

The median for board personnel directors is £9,610 compared with £8,500 for works directors. However, the salary range reaches much higher levels for works directors with an upper quartile of £12,000 and a maximum of £16,000 compared to £10,000 and £12,500 respectively.

Looking at the year ahead the survey says that in a depressed employment market there are fewer opportunities for managers to change jobs—the 194 surveyed companies, employing over 400,000 staff reported 4,000 management vacancies. With many companies reducing numbers by a policy of non replacement of staff, there is plenty of opportunity for managers to take on extra work, but genuine internal promotions are few.

The survey concludes that not only does this result in many managements reducing in numbers, but the strength of the individual management team can decline if the balance is not right.

David Lloyd

## COUNTY SURVEYOR AND ENGINEER

Salary Scale £11,856-£12,738

Mr. Tom Morris will retire at the end of June, 1976, and applications are invited for appointment to the post of County Surveyor and Engineer.

Candidates must be Chartered Engineers and be able to demonstrate substantial experience and high level capabilities in road design, construction and

maintenance, and in the associated engineering and managerial disciplines.

Further details and application forms are obtainable from the Personnel Officer, County Hall, Oxford, OX1 1ND (Telephone: 0865-81 5262). The closing date for applications will be Monday, 5th April.

## Oxfordshire County Council

£6,000 plus appointments are featured every Friday, for details please ring 01-278 9161

## LEGAL APPOINTMENTS

LONDON LEGAL BUREAU, Specialising in legal appointments in London and rural areas. We are looking for a Solicitor to join our team. The successful candidate will be responsible for the day-to-day running of the firm and will be expected to develop its work in the future. The post is open to anyone who is a member of the firm and who is committed to its aims and objectives. The salary is £2,500 per annum plus commission. Applications should be sent to the Director, The Legal Bureau, 10, Bedford Square, London, W.C.1.

### MANAGEMENT AND EXECUTIVE

MANAGING DIRECTOR—Small well established Public Company. The successful candidate will be responsible for the day-to-day running of the firm and will be expected to develop its work in the future. The post is open to anyone who is a member of the firm and who is committed to its aims and objectives. The salary is £2,500 per annum plus commission. Applications should be sent to the Director, The Management and Executive Firm, 10, Bedford Square, London, W.C.1.

### PUBLIC AND EDUCATIONAL APPOINTMENTS

SENIOR FRENCH TEACHER REQUIRED BY WINCHESTER HOUSE SCHOOL

(I.A.P.S. Board's) Teaching experience in Public Schools. Salary level and conditions of service to be discussed. The successful candidate will be responsible for the day-to-day running of the school and will be expected to develop its work in the future. The post is open to anyone who is a member of the school and who is committed to its aims and objectives. The salary is £2,500 per annum plus commission. Applications should be sent to the Director, The French Teacher Firm, 10, Bedford Square, London, W.C.1.

### TEACHERS OF ENGLISH to adults

required for the day-to-day running of the school and will be expected to develop its work in the future. The post is open to anyone who is a member of the school and who is committed to its aims and objectives. The salary is £2,500 per annum plus commission. Applications should be sent to the Director, The Teachers of English Firm, 10, Bedford Square, London, W.C.1.

### E.P.L.—TEACHER for Scandinavian

Executive required by Language School. The successful candidate will be responsible for the day-to-day running of the school and will be expected to develop its work in the future. The post is open to anyone who is a member of the school and who is committed to its aims and objectives. The salary is £2,500 per annum plus commission. Applications should be sent to the Director, The E.P.L. Firm, 10, Bedford Square, London, W.C.1.

### UNIVERSITY APPOINTMENTS

University of Keele  
DEPARTMENT OF CHEMISTRY  
Applications invited for DEMONSTRATORSHIPS IN CHEMISTRY

from 1st October, 1976, for one year in the first instance, renewable for a further year. Salary scale £2,500 to £3,500 p.a. (including a £1,000 p.a. allowance for housing and a £500 p.a. allowance for travel). The successful candidate will be responsible for the day-to-day running of the department and will be expected to develop its work in the future. The post is open to anyone who is a member of the department and who is committed to its aims and objectives. The salary is £2,500 per annum plus commission. Applications should be sent to the Director, The University of Keele, 10, Bedford Square, London, W.C.1.

## UNIVERSITY APPOINTMENTS

### MAURITIUS INSTITUTE OF EDUCATION

Applications are invited for posts as SENIOR LECTURER, LECTURER/ASSISTANT LECTURER in:

#### 1. TECHNICAL EDUCATION (INDUSTRIAL ARTS)

Applicants should possess: A degree and/or professional qualification in the field of Industrial Arts, Design, or a related discipline. The successful candidate will be responsible for the day-to-day running of the department and will be expected to develop its work in the future. The post is open to anyone who is a member of the department and who is committed to its aims and objectives. The salary is £2,500 per annum plus commission. Applications should be sent to the Director, The Institute of Education, 10, Bedford Square, London, W.C.1.

#### 2. ART AND CRAFT

Applicants should possess: A degree and/or professional qualification in the field of Art and Craft. The successful candidate will be responsible for the day-to-day running of the department and will be expected to develop its work in the future. The post is open to anyone who is a member of the department and who is committed to its aims and objectives. The salary is £2,500 per annum plus commission. Applications should be sent to the Director, The Institute of Education, 10, Bedford Square, London, W.C.1.

#### 3. ENGLISH LANGUAGE

Applicants should possess: A good Honours degree in English and a postgraduate qualification in Applied Linguistics. The successful candidate will be responsible for the day-to-day running of the department and will be expected to develop its work in the future. The post is open to anyone who is a member of the department and who is committed to its aims and objectives. The salary is £2,500 per annum plus commission. Applications should be sent to the Director, The Institute of Education, 10, Bedford Square, London, W.C.1.

#### 4. MODERN MATHEMATICS

Candidates should possess: A degree in Mathematics and a postgraduate qualification with specialisation in Mathematics. The successful candidate will be responsible for the day-to-day running of the department and will be expected to develop its work in the future. The post is open to anyone who is a member of the department and who is committed to its aims and objectives. The salary is £2,500 per annum plus commission. Applications should be sent to the Director, The Institute of Education, 10, Bedford Square, London, W.C.1.

### University of Khartoum—Sudan

Applications are invited for LECTURESHIP IN PRIVATE LAW

Salary scale: £5,000-£5,400 p.a. (including a £1,000 p.a. allowance for housing and a £500 p.a. allowance for travel). The successful candidate will be responsible for the day-to-day running of the department and will be expected to develop its work in the future. The post is open to anyone who is a member of the department and who is committed to its aims and objectives. The salary is £2,500 per annum plus commission. Applications should be sent to the Director, The University of Khartoum, 10, Bedford Square, London, W.C.1.

### University of Liverpool

DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH LITERATURE  
Applications are invited for the post of LECTURER

in the Department of English Literature. The successful candidate will be responsible for the day-to-day running of the department and will be expected to develop its work in the future. The post is open to anyone who is a member of the department and who is committed to its aims and objectives. The salary is £2,500 per annum plus commission. Applications should be sent to the Director, The University of Liverpool, 10, Bedford Square, London, W.C.1.

## Senior Chartered Surveyor Private Investment and Banking Company

This opportunity is with a Bank situated in West End London.

The successful applicant, ideally aged 30-40, will be able to demonstrate a solid record of achievement in Commerce and to command a salary in excess of £10,000.

The person appointed will work with a minimum of supervision in the treatment of a new Estate Department and, as well as controlling the Company's property, acquired property interests, will be capable of generating new business.

The working conditions and terms of employment are of an unusually high standard for the right applicant.

Please write in the strictest confidence to: John Sleigh, RSCA quoting reference JS/256/SCA giving full details of your career to date.

## Lloyd Management

## Personnel Managers Management Consultants Advertising Agencies...

Due to the success of The Times recruitment pages we are pleased to announce plans for a focus to appear on

THURSDAY, 1st APRIL, 1976  
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RECRUITMENT OPPORTUNITIES**

What better way to recruit your staff than to aim at an already established market which has been promoted in outstanding quality by the Times? Your company would appear under special headings designed to draw the position you wish to fill. It is planned that in this particular feature emphasis will be placed with editorial comment on

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